Daily Report

East Europe

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Albania: Berisha Congratulates Italy's Prodi on Election Victory

AU2604203996 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic Sali Berisha has sent a letter to Professor Romano Prodi, congratulating him on the victory in the latest elections. Among other things, Berisha writes:

I would like to assure you of my determination to work together to consolidate the cooperation and friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Wishing Professor Prodi success in forming his cabinet, Berisha expresses his desire to welcome him to Albania soon.

Albania: Kosovar Figure Arrives, Notes 'Tragic Events'

AU2604205496 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Interview with Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Kosovar Albanians, by Asllan Bajrami at Rinas Airport on 26 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a tour of several days in Austria, France, and Belgium, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosova, arrived in Tirana today. Rugova discussed his visits and meetings in these countries in an interview for Albanian radio and television:

[Bajrami] Mr. President, what is the current position of the European countries and institutions after your visits to Vienna, Strasbourg, and Brussels? Here I mean the recognition of the defunct Yugoslavia by some European countries some time ago.

[Rugova] These were some very important visits within the framework of regular relations that Kosova has established with these European countries. First I held a meeting in Austria with Austrian Foreign Minister Schuessel. Then in Strasbourg I met officials from a delegation for southeastern Europe organized by Mrs. Pac. We had a very important discussion about Kosova. In Paris, I met Barnier, French minister for European affairs, as Mr. De Charette was busy with the Near East. In Brussels, I had a thorough visit and held talks with Mr. Spaler, the Belgium foreign minister and chairman of the Belgian Senate, as well as with the Flemish parliament. We had very warm meetings with all parties. Of course, we presented and demanded our very important position and discussed the solution of the Kosova issue on the basis of the political will of the Kosovar people for freedom, independence, and democracy.

I can say that the position of the European countries is very positive. The peaceful movement and nonviolent resistance of the people of Kosova is being supported. Anyway, this will be rewarded. I can say that I am very pleased with these visits within the framework of regular contacts we have established.

In Brussels, we held important meetings at the European Commission. The meeting with Mr. Van den Broeck, who knows the Kosova issue and the problems in the former Yugoslavia quite well, was permeated by good understanding on the Kosova issue. He promised that the European community together with the United States will be further engaged to resolve the Kosova issue and show a better understanding to the resistance of the Kosovar people.

[Bajrami] Mr. President, while several European countries recognized the defunct Yugoslavia, the Belgrade regime intensified its violence in the Republic of Kosova. One student was killed, and later other killings occurred. What is your assessment of the latest events in Kosova?

[Rugova] The latest events in Kosova, which were very tragic and started with the killing of the Albanian student, may further aggravate the situation. I appeal to all citizens of the Republic of Kosova not to fall prey to various provocations aiming at further aggravating the Kosova issue and hampering its political and peaceful solution. Of course, we have the support of all our friends.

At the same time, I would like to greet the report by the U.S. State Department on the occasion of these tragic events in Kosova, asking for continuos care in finding a political solution to the Kosova issue on the basis of the political will of the Kosovar people.

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Bulgaria: Gradual Integration With FYROM Advocated

AU2904135196 Sofia SEGA in Bulgarian No 16, 25 Apr-1 May 96 p 16

[Interview with Krasimir Karakachanov, cochairman of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Movement-Union of Macedonian Societies and leader of its Youth Wing, by an unidentified SEGA correspondent; place and date not given: "Bulgaria Should Integrate With Macedonia According to the German Model"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [SEGA] Mr. Karakachanov, is it true that the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Movement-Union of Macedonian Societies [VMRO-SMD] went to Sandanski to frustrate the demonstration organized by the Ilinden United Macedonian Organization at Yane Sandanski's grave?

[Karakachanov] That was one of our goals, but our second and more important goal was to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the liberation of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] from Serbian occupation. We have set ourselves the goal of building up a major national-political movement as an alternative to the existing bipolar political model in Bulgaria. Attempts so far by the opposition to shatter the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] have all failed.

[SEGA] Does this mean you will also form an alternative to the opposition, of which you are a member?

[Karakachanov] We are talking about an ideological, and later a political alternative to the socialist and liberal model. We will work for the model of national democracy, for promoting the nation's and the state's interests above everything else.

[SEGA] You celebrated the liberation of Macedonia from the Serbian forces. However, your allies in the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] have never propounded such a thesis officially. Do you expect any conflicts with them?

[Karakachanov] It is true that the SDS has never raised such a slogan as a coalition, however, its ranks include persons whose positions coincide with our own.

[SEGA] You declared at the rally that the Bulgarian people have never lost their desire to live together with Mysia, Thrace, and Macedonia. What did you have in mind?

[Karakachanov] This idea formed the basis of Bulgarian national policy throughout the Third Bulgarian Empire. There is nothing bad in this, given that similar theses are proposed by other states in Europe and that we are seeing a revision of the status quo. The Bulgarian nation should seek some form of unification with its compatriots outside the country.

[SEGA] Do you envision a union of Bulgaria and Macedonia?

[Karakachanov] This is a more distant goal. At the moment, we should work for a gradual integration between Bulgaria and Macedonia similar to that of West and East Germany. You should not forget that this took 50 years. Bonn followed a clever and consistent policy, one of showing respect for the merits of the Germans in the former GDR [German Democratic Republic], while drawing them toward the values that the West preaches. Bulgarian-Macedonian integration should copy this model. All other ways are doomed to fail. We may also seek other alternatives, such as a confederation. At the moment, this idea is also receiving support from various notable personalities in Macedonia.

[SEGA] What is your comment on the government's policy toward Macedonia?

[Karakachanov] It is a narrow-minded policy that is subordinate to purely party interests. This cabinet practically made a gift of the waters of the Mesta River to Greece. Its leader, Zhan Videnov, has called the Western Outlands eastern Serbia and has officially declared that there are no Bulgarians in Aegean Macedonia. His policy toward Macedonia is just the same. At the moment, the Bulgarian people are split into two. We should clearly state that Macedonia is the second Bulgarian state in the Balkans, and we should give priority to developing good relations with it.

Bulgaria: Dogan Assesses Significance of Court Ruling

AU2904114996 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 27 Apr 96 p 4

[Interview with DPS leader Ahmed Dogan by Valeriya Veleva; place and date not given: "There Is No Political Deal; Justice Prevailed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Veleva] Mr. Dogan, how do you, as leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS], view the decision of the Supreme Court to restore Rasim Musa to his post as Kurdzhali mayor?

[Dogan] The Supreme Court really proved to be the Supreme Court of all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Kurdzhali Court proved to be a provincial court. I do not want to draw profound conclusions, but the Kurdzhali Court really was supposed to be more objective because even a modestly literate person could see that the experts' opinion was an attempt

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at manipulation. For me as a politician, it was very important to become convinced again that legality, the observance of the law, and respect for the institutions is the foundation of democracy.

[Veleva] You believe it was a Stalingrad battle of sorts.

[Dogan] Kurdzhali is a strategic region in the political struggle between the left and the right. It also combines international factors. When at such a delicate moment No. 20 Positano Street [headquarters of the Bulgarian Socialist Party—BSP], succeeded in imposing a certain decision on the Kurdzhali Court, this served as a serious indication as to who will raise the banner of nationalism precisely before the presidential elections and within the context of discussing our membership in NATO. After Yeltsin's statement regarding Bulgaria's inclusion in USSR-2, the decision obtained completely different dimensions. Kurdzhali is thus the center of many problems—social, political, and international—all of them issues that affect human rights and equality in the eyes of the law.

[Veleva] The BSP accused No. 134 Rakovski Street [headquarters of the Union of Democratic Forces—SDS] and No. 2 Dondukov Street [the Presidency], of applying political pressure on the Supreme Court judges.

[Dogan] If they are speaking about political pressure, they should open their hearts and admit whether they have not tried to apply pressure on the Supreme Court. I can cite specific facts as to what they have done regarding the Supreme Court. There was no pressure on our part. We only preferred to appear until the last moment as if we were not sure of the outcome. Justice prevailed in the final analysis.

[Veleva] It has been said that Zhelev will win in Kurdzhali.

[Dogan] Dr. Zhelev really enjoys a great authority. In 1988, 1989, and 1990 very few Bulgarian brothers of ours found the strength to openly support us. Dr. Zhelev was one of those few people. This is a fact that cannot be forgotten.

[Veleva] At present the people are talking about a political deal.

[Dogan] At least, I have not participated in any deal. I do not think that anyone in my team has participated in something like this. Such a deal is very difficult. The voters are not a computer that can be programmed in order to guarantee the final outcome.

Bulgaria: Purvanov Reacts to Ruling on Kurdzhali

AU2904121996 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 27 Apr 96 p 14

[Interview with BSP Deputy Chairman Georgi Purvanov by Valeriya Veleva; place and date not given: "I Forecast DPS Failure After Presidential Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Veleva] Was the Supreme Court's decision on Kurdzhali's mayor a personal blow for you as a politician? You personally committed yourself to Kurdzhali.

[Purvanov] Let the simple Bulgarian be the judge. I think that in itself the election result was a great step in the struggle against the ethnic policy conducted by the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS]. It is a fact that we succeeded in mobilizing many more voters in the elections and succeeded in achieving something unique in modern Bulgarian history—we united more than 30 parties from the right to the left—with fundamentally different ideologies. This shows that new approaches toward political life are sought in Kurdzhali. I would like to think that I am one of the people who made a contribution in this respect. Obviously, we are a long way away from the good results in the democratic processes, since a few people can cynically change the people's vote in such a delicate region as Kurdzhali. This is an open mockery of reality.

[Veleva] Is the situation not also a blow to the policy of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] as ruling party?

[Purvanov] It is a fact that the BSP accepts the court decision in a calm, prudent, and responsible manner. This shows that we are an organization that does not want to dramatize such a problem. Despite the fact that we are disturbed by the decision and the pressure applied by certain state institutions and political forces, we certainly will not do what our opponents are doing, namely, tour Europe, complaining and soliciting help. Our opponents will ultimately reap the bitter fruits of this long story. I have difficulty envisioning Ivan Kostov [Union of Democratic Forces leader] or another opposition leader convincing the Kurdzhali public of the correctness of the court decision.

[Veleva] What is the situation in Kurdzhali now? What is the attitude to the Bulgarians?

[Purvanov] I can tell you that the rumors about the ethnic tension in Kurdzhali are not exaggerated. The DPS definitely aims at maintaining such tension. This is understandable because the DPS is an ethnic party that can exist only if it provokes ethnic tension. As far as the other political forces are concerned, all political and public organizations, except for some

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radical organizations with a nationalistic character, will strive to maintain a calm atmosphere. The social climate in Kurdzhali needs this, despite the difficulties and problems. [passage omitted]

[Veleva] What will you say to your supporters when you return to Kurdzhali?

[Purvanov] I will express my regret that we could not bring the struggle to a successful conclusion. I maintain my moderate optimism because the consolidation of our diverse politic l and social membership in the region inspires hope that we will become a strong opposition. The time is near when, in accordance with the new law, corrections will be made in the borders of the municipalities and justice will prevail in Kurdzhali municipality.

Bulgaria: Videnov Comments on Pirinski as Candidate

AU2904073496 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 28 Apr 96 p 2

["Staff report": "Zhan Videnov Nominates Pirinski as BSP Presidential Candidate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 27 April, at the accountability-election conference of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] organization in Sofia's Serdika District, Zhan Videnov stressed that Georgi Pirinski is the most suitable BSP candidate for the post of president. The BSP leader pointed out that Aleksandur Lilov also has the qualities of a head of state, but the party needs him as its strategist. Zhan Videnov said that it is high time to unmask the real manipulators in the BSP.

From Videnov's words, it became clear that the BSP Executive Bureau supports Doncho Konakchiev in his scandals with DUMA Editor Stefan Prodev. According to Videnov, the socialist leadership has read every single line published by the BSP organ against Konakchiev and, without heaving heard Prodev himself, the members of the leadership assessed that the criticism against the deputy prime minister is "unacceptable, unfounded, and inappropriate."

A while ago, at the BSP conference in Mladost District, Konakchiev accused Prodev of owning a villa worth millions of leva. The DUMA editor answered caustically. On 27 April, Videnov read an "open letter" from the Socialists in Mladost in which they demand a public apology from DUMA.

However, prior to hearing the prime minister, Orlin Dimov, BSP Serdika organization leader, recommended to the BSP leadership that they should have better coordination with DUMA.

The participants in the accountability-election meeting told Videnov that the BSP Supreme Council must consult the party structures when adopting important personnel decisions. In his report, Dimov accused the party of conducting a weak cadre policy.

Bulgaria: BSP Municipal Conferences Insist on Changes

AU2904084596 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 29 Apr 96 p 2

["Staff report": "BSP Leadership Will Insist on Reshuffling Videnov Cabinet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yanaki Stoilov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council, said on 28 April at the BSP Kyustendil municipal conference that changes in the executive power are imperative.

He said that the BSP leadership has recommended to the prime minister that he reshuffle the cabinet by the summer. Yanaki Stoilov pointed out that changes in the Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Interior are necessary, and that they must be effected now in order to avoid the crisis. According to Stoilov, the "Granitski [television director] case" must never be repeated.

We receive ever more information regarding the fact that selfish and private interests of the people of the leftist forces have been promoted during the period of perestroyka, Socialist Deputy Chavdar Dobrev said at the conference in Sofia Slatina District. According to Dobrev, Bulgaria does not need manipulators. He said that a cabinet cannot allow other people to manipulate it, even if those people are prompted by noble goals.

The deputy thinks that the link between the party and the state is very weak. According to him, this year, the BSP must develop differently the relations between the party and the executive and legislative powers. Changes are necessary in the work of the BSP Supreme Council and the Executive Bureau, Professor Dobrev thinks.

The BSP must say first what presidential policy it is proposing to Bulgaria and then find the right person to implement it, Aleksandur Lilov said at the BSP conference in Kazanluk. He pointed out the democratic manner in which the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] is electing its presidential candidate. Precisely as he did at the Stara Zagora conference, Lilov again refused to allow the use of his name in any procedure related to the presidential elections.

Krasimir Premyanov, leader of the BSP parliamentary faction, said that the leftist presidential candidate's platform will be ready by 15 May. He also stressed that national security is a major priority.

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Nikola Koychev, member of the BSP Executive Bureau, said in Vidin: "No one will forgive us if, by nominating Pirinski, we repeat the mistake we made when we nominated Petur Boyadzhiev candidate for the post of prime minister." He explained that Georgi Pirinski was born in the United States and that he is the son of naturalized U.S. citizens. The foreign minister indeed had U.S. citizenship, but has relinquished it.

If we approach the Constitutional Court on this manner, keeping in mind the present structure of depoliticization and the current ethics, it is possible that we will not receive an answer by 1 June. However, we must not close our eyes to the fact that, at the municipal conference, the Socialists expressed their preference for the foreign minister. At present, he is the most popular personality, Koychev said.

The Socialists in Dobrich adopted Pirinski's candidacy for the post of president. He was supported by 44 organizations. Nikolay Kamov was supported by seven, and Blagovest Sendov by six. The Socialists in Pernik also expressed a preference for Foreign Minister Pirinski.

Bulgaria: Kostov Analyzes Political Moves in BSP, SDS

AU2504120796 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 25 Apr 96 p 9

[Interview with SDS leader Ivan Kostov by Valeriya Veleva; place and date not given: "Pirinski's Candidacy will Bury Videnov Politically"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Veleva] Mr. Kostov, how do you view Mr. Pirinski's candidacy for the presidential elections, which appears to assert itself in the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]?

[Kostov] Georgi Pirinski is a personality who consolidates the BSP against Zhan Videnov. He personifies the victory of Lukanov and Lilov, who oppose the prime minister's 'circle of friends." In this context, the consolidation against the BSP chairman will produce deep contradictions in the progress of the presidential elections campaign, and will disorganize that campaign. The BSP apparatus, which is controlled by Videnov, will consider itself cheated and will develop concerns regarding the establishment of a second power center in the party that, after the elections—regardless of their results—will decide the battle in its favor. Pirinski as a candidate-president means Videnov's descent from the political scene! With his apparatchik's instinct, the prime minister is sensing that he must not allow the ascent of a person behind his back who could climb above him and bury him politically.

Pirinski is not a dangerous rival for Petur Stoyanov because he does not have the support of the entire BSP. This fall, Zhan Videnov will fail in governing the country. This will cause the failure of any BSP candidate, regardless of his personal qualities. [passage omitted]

[Veleva] Dr. Zhelev already said that the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] is conducting an intolerant campaign against him and Edvin Sugarev is already writing articles against him in DEMOKRATSIYA. Can you imagine the scope of the scandal on 2 June if one of the candidates does not recognize the results of the presidential primaries?

[Kostov] It depends who the "one" is. For us, it is important that the "one" is not Mrs. Mozer [leader of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union—BZNS], Mr. Savov [Democratic Party leader], or Mr. Zhelev. I am prepared to cope with all the rest. I have no reason to doubt Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Savov. I cannot allow myself to suspect them. I believe my eyes and their signatures under the agreement. I believe the joint work we are carrying out at present in the foundation and in the Central Elections Committee. We are making progress and, on many issues, we have formed the same opinion. I appeal for the preservation of the trust among us. Let me stress again—neither Mrs. Mozer nor Mr. Savov have allowed themselves a statement against the presidential primaries. In addition, they did not issue any insults against the SDS as Zhelev did. [passage omitted]

[Veleva] Are you not concerned with the lack of opposition within the SDS? Every idea you propose immediately receives total support. Is this not disturbing?

[Kostov] The support is for Petur Stoyanov, and it was expressed by the Eighth SDS Conference. Only those who do not want our success are trying to deviate us from our unity. Everyone understands the importance of the moment, and I am one of the few happy SDS leaders who are experiencing a golden era with an enthusiastic SDS behind them. This is a wonderful feeling.

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Czech Republic: Narrow Majority of TV Viewers Favors NATO Entry

AU2604160096 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 25 Apr 96 p 5

[Report by "red": "Holan Won"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Defense Minister Vilem Holan (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party) yesterday convinced television viewers that the conceivable entry into NATO would be a step in the right direction, his victory was a close one. "Joining the alliance is the best possible alternative for guaranteeing the security of the Republic," Holan argued, who was opposed on television by, among others, Left Bloc honorary chairman Zdenek Mlynar.

Result of the Arena Program

Did Defense Minister Vilem Holan convince you that entry into NATO is a step in the right direction?	
No	6,449
Yes	6,464

Czech Republic: Havel on Talks with PRC's Qian Qichen

LD2804155696 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1215 GMT 28 Apr 96

[Interview with Czech President Vaclav Havel by Eva Hulkova; "Conversations at Lany"—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hulkova] Mr. President, the visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is being described as mold-breaking. It seems a fair description inasmuch as you discussed very sensitive and important issues. How do you assess these talks?

[Havel] The talks with the Chinese foreign minister, who is also a deputy prime minister, were very interesting for me. His eagerness to hold these talks is interesting in itself. He had prepared for the talks bwecause some of my views are well known. I did brief him about my views on various things really openly—including the failure to observe human rights in China and the issues of Tibet and Taiwan. However, I put this into a larger context. I spoke about my view on China's role in the future world setup and about the multipolar and multicultural character of our present civilization. This is the subject to which I frequently keep returning in my speeches, above all when I am abroad.

I have to say that our talks were very harmonious and open. Something until recently unimaginable did take place: The minister discussed all of this with me in a matter-of-fact way, including the issue of the Dalai Lama and his project of Tibetan autonomy. The talks made a very good impression on me. Later I also learned about the considerable reaction it prompted in various countries around the world.

[Hulkova] What kind of reaction? Could you specify it?

[Havel] In the sense that this might be some sort of signal that some things might move forward on the basis of a dialogue instead of confrontation. I was briefed about these reactions abroad, and I have to say that I was surprised by the attention it received. I am naturally very glad if I have in any way contributed to a positive shift. [passage omitted]

[Hulkova] What do you feel about the fact that there will be political parties running in the parliamentary elections that will probably be unable to pay their election deposits?

[Havel] [Passage omitted] I am not in the position of making the final decision. As far as I know some parties have appealed to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court will decide in this matter.

I can only give you my personal view. I think that a party that is unable to put together 200,000 [Czech korunas] to run in an election district is simply unfit to become a part of political life because it is an incompetent party. Unless this applies, any five madmen could form a party to run in the elections, and the state would spend taxpayers' money on printing ballots for such a party—despite the fact that it is clear that it would receive only those five votes from its founders.

There must be certain guarantees against this, and, in my view, this sum seems to be almost microscopic in today's terms. [passage omitted]

Czech Republic: Havel, Klaus Differ Over Conflict in Bosnia

96CH0077C Prague PRAGUE POST in English 6-12 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Siegfried Mortkowitz: "Havel, Klaus Balance Each Other's Balkan Stance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the conflicting parties in the former Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic is a country that speaks with two voices. President Vaclav Havel has overtly condemned Bosnia-Serb aggression and supported a multiethnic Bosnia governed by the legitimately elected Bosnian government.

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By contrast, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, who was scheduled to make his first trip to Belgrade and Zagreb March 4 and 5, has been unwilling to label the warring parties as villains and victims. He speaks of forming equal relations with all parties to the conflict, but he has been notably cold to the Bosnian side, and he will not visit Bosnia-Herzegovina in his upcoming visit.

However, representatives of both politicians describe these difference as a benefit rather than a flaw.

"Our politics have a special asset," said Pavel Seifter, director of the president's foreign-policy department. "We have a strong personality as president, we also have a strong personality as prime minister, and we have a very effective personality as foreign minister. This combination provides great opportunities in all respects—economic, cultural and moral. (Our foreign policy) is balanced now, but it's taken a while."

This view was echoed by a Foreign Ministry source and by Jiri Weigl, deputy minister in the prime minister's office and chief advisor to Klaus. "I think (Klaus and Havel) complement each other in many things," Weigl said. "This is good for the country."

Conversations with the Yugoslav and Croat ambassadors to the Czech Republic revealed a definite disparity in the way the two Czech leaders are perceived.

"We especially respect the attitude of Prime Minister Klaus during the war," said Milan Veljasevic, first counselor of the Yugoslav Embassy in Prague. "He tried to be neutral. But some people in the Czech Republic got involved on one side."

Veljasevic also said that because the Czechs had already gone through a period of privatization, the Yugoslavs were looking to Klaus to share his experience and knowledge in that area. He refused to comment, however, on the nature of the relationship between presidents Havel and Milosevic.

Croat Ambassador Zlatko Stahuljak said that Klaus is extremely well-liked in Croatia as an economic leader. "As for Mr. Havel," Stahuljak said, "we like him because he is different from a humane point of view. He always understood the situation in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina." But he refused to comment on the positions of the two leaders during the war.

The differences between the president and the prime minister came to a head last September, after Havel invited Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to the Czech Republic to participate in the "Month of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Czech Republic" without consulting with Klaus. After accepting the visit with "embarrassment," the prime minister took the opportunity to restate his belief that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a "tripartite game," and that "all the three parties' responsibility for what is going on there is equal."

Weigl said, "The differences (between Klaus and Havel) result from their different positions and backgrounds. The president is a moral authority and a well-known personality who all his life has been connected with human-rights issues. So the statements he made were primarily motivated by his personal views and personal concerns...without respect to the political consequences and balance of relationships vis-a-vis individual parties involved in the conflict."

Regarding the prime minister, Weigl said, "His experience has convinced him that to achieve sustainable solutions, you must have a balanced approach."

This "balanced approach" makes it easier for the prime minister to negotiate with all parties, Weigl said. It is also one reason that he did not go to Sarajevo. President Havel visited Sarajevo in December 1995, and a trip by Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, provisionally planned for mid-April, will include stops in all three capitals.

Igor Blazevic, of the People in Need Foundation, which helped to organize the "Month of Bosnia and Herzegovina," said that "it's not important that Klaus and Havel have different opinions (about Bosnia). It's not important whether someone is pro-Serb or pro-Bosnian. What's important is to understand the conflict in terms of power blocs, not ethnic groups."

From this viewpoint, Blazevic said, "Havel was the only politician to make clear statements. But he was ignored." He added that "there is a huge interest in Bosnia to learn about the Czech experience in economic transformation, and here Klaus and his team are interesting partners."

Czech Republic: STEM Poll on Popularity of Politicians

AU2604173696 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 24 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by "jik": "A Definite Majority of Politicians Keeps Losing Supporters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—The latest survey by the Empirical Research Center [STEM] conducted at the beginning of April confirmed the continuously declining popularity of politicians. Sociologists relate this trend, which began in January, to the coming Chamber of Deputies elections.

"The average favorable assessment of the first 12 politicians is now 53 percent, while a year ago it was 58 percent," Pavel Simonik from STEM said yesterday. According to him, the decline in popularity

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can be attributed to the public's assessing the deeds and conduct of politicians much more critically before elections than ever before.

Even the first-ranking fixed star—Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of trade and industry and deputy chairman of ODA [Civic Democratic Alliance]—has been losing supporters for several months, like those who follow him in the ranks: Vaclav Klaus, prime minister and chairman of the ODS [Civic Democratic Party], and one of the chairmen of the SD-LSNS [Free Democrats-Liberal National Social Party], Jiri Dienstbier.

On the bottom portion of the list of 27 politicians, whose names STEM offered to the respondents, the 14th entry, Parliament Chairman Milan Uhde (ODS), lost the most (from 42 percent in March to 35 percent in April), and Parliament Deputy Chairman Jan Kasal (KDU-CSL [Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party]) ranked 18th, from 35 to 29 percent).

Health Minister Jan Strasky (ODS), who is much more popular than his chief adversary in the sector—David Rath, the head of the Physicians Professional Club—managed to halt the loss of votes, was ranked 10th, and 46 percent of those asked assessed him favorably. Rath, as an SD-LSNS candidate, was evaluated for the first time and ended 17th, with 30 percent of the votes.

The only exception among all of the assessed politicians is Interior Minister Jan Ruml (ODS), who has been gaining new supporters, month after month, for a year now.

STEM included in the list of assessed politicians for the first time the chairmen of the ODS, the CSSD [Czech Social Democratic Party], and the KDU-CSL Deputies' Club. While Stanislav Gross (CSSD) with 37 percent immediately penetrated the top ranks (while 31 percent of the people still do not know him), Jiri Honajzer (ODS) and Miloslav Vyborny (KDU-CSL) share the 25th and 26th ranks with 19 percent. More than half of the respondents do not know them.

On the other hand, Klaus is the best known—absolutely everyone knows him—and 52 percent of those asked value him favorably. Only 1 percent of the respondents do not know the head of the Republicans, Miroslav Sladek, who is favored by 24 percent of respondents. That is 10 percent more than last July.

Development of Popularity of Individual Politicians

	Jul 95	Sep 95	Nov 95	Feb 96	Mar 96	Apr 96
V. Dlouhy (ODA)	80	78	83	75	71	70
J. Zieleniec (ODS)	68	67	68	63	65	64
P. Buzkova (CSSD)	61	57	63	56	59	60
M. Zeman (CSSD)	63	55	57	56	54	55
J. Kalvoda (ODA)	50	52	60	62	59	55
J. Dienstbier (SD-LSNS)	73	71	74	62	61	55
V. Klaus (ODS)	58	56	56	55	53	52
J. Lux (KDU-CSL)	48	40	52	53	56	52
I. Kocarnik (ODS)	53	53	56	54	56	52
J. Strasky (ODS)	53	55	60	49	45	46
J. Ruml (ODS)	32	33	35	36	42	43
S. Gross (CSSD)	—	—	—	—	—	37

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Czech Republic: Factum Poll: Social Democrats Gaining

AU2604154896 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 25 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by "(jik)": "Factum Is Announcing a Gain for the Social Democrats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—According to a poll conducted by the Factum Agency in mid-April, the Czech Social Democratic Party has gained 5 percent more supporters recently. On the other hand, during the past two months, roughly the same number of voters have abandoned the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) and the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL).

Factum is the first agency to announce such a shift of voters away from the coalition parties to the opposition. Neither the Center for Empirical Research nor the Institute for Public Opinion Research signaled anything like this at the beginning of April.

"It is not out of the question that some People's Party and ODA supporters have realized that their views belong more to the left and that the social democrats in fact comply with their ideas," concedes the Factum Agency's director, Jan Herzmann.

The decline in support for the KDU-CSL and ODA is, according to the Factum Agency, even such that Sladek's republicans have risen to third place behind the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] and the social democrats, although their popularity has not increased during the past month.

Factum, like the other agencies, states that the gap between the ODS and the social democrats is holding at 7 percent. Since the beginning of January, support for the ODS has been about 27 percent and about 20 percent for the social democrats. "However, I do not think the social democrats could obtain enough to win the elections," said Herzmann.

Sladek's republicans, with 8.1-percent support, have registered an increase of almost 5 percent since last August. "The more it is said that this party will be in parliament and its chairman is seen on television, the less people consider it improper to admit that they want to vote for it. My tip would be that the republicans will go up even more," says Herzmann.

Czech Republic: ODS Admits Ignorance of Identity of Donors

AU2904090196 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 26 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by "(jik, km)": "The ODS Knows Nothing About the Foreigners That Donated Millions To It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—The Civic Democratic Party [ODS] has no documentation on who sent it its two largest donations—each amounting to 3.75 million korunas—which, according to its annual financial report, came from Budapest and the island of Mauritius.

The party's deputy chairman, Libor Novak, admitted yesterday that the ODS does not have the letters from the end of last year in which it was informed that a Lajos Bacs from Budapest and a Radjiv M. Sinha from Mauritius would be sending it money. "We no longer have the letters; we probably threw them away or misplaced them, but we cannot find them now. However, we copied everything that was in them in the annual financial report," declared Novak.

So, the ODS is unable to rebut the suspicion that someone else, who wants to conceal his identity, sent it this money. That is, there are grave doubts about the existence of the two aforementioned donors. According to the Budapest population register, a man named Lajos Bacs died in 1982, and, in yesterday's LIDOVE NOVINY, the only Radjiv M. Sinha living on Mauritius categorically denied that he would be a sponsor of the ODS.

After the publication of these reports, the strongest governing party gave up on furnishing any proof on the veracity of the information it gave in the financial report for parliament and has now decided to assign these sums among the so-called anonymous donations. "At the moment, we have to regard these donations as anonymous because we have not managed to ascertain who is involved. It cannot be assumed that we would be able to do so unless the person himself calls us," said Novak. According to him, it is not even possible to ascertain the origin of the money from the bank accounts it came from.

The ODS now admits that it made a mistake when it did not want to find out more about such major sponsors. "Perhaps it was our folly that we did not check at the given moment that they were false and declare them to be anonymous donations straight away," conceded Novak. In reply to a question on whether the letters he was talking about were really sent from Budapest and Mauritius, Novak said: "I saw only the contents of the letters."

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Czech Republic: Ruml Wants To Outlaw Stepan's Far-Left Party

96CH0077B Prague PRAGUE POST in English 6-12 Mar 96 p 1

[Article by Emma McClune: "Interior Minister Ruml Proposes Outlawing Fringe Communist Party"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The pre-election political fun and games continue, with a right-wing jab at the nation's favorite scapegoat: the communists.

Interior Minister Jan Ruml, a member of the ruling Civic Democratic Party (ODS), is preparing a proposal to outlaw the far-left Party of Czechoslovak Communists (SCK).

The SCK's 1996 election platform amounts to a plan to resurrect a regime that is "both criminal and a threat to democracy," Ruml said.

Ruml is accusing the SCK of fashioning itself too closely after the old communists, namely the Czechoslovak Communist Party (KSC)—leaders of the 1948-89 totalitarian regime, which has since been ruled "criminal" and anti-democratic by parliamentary order. Speaking at a February 10 meeting of the SCK, party leader Miroslav Stepan outlined a distinctly hammer-and-sickle-shaded election platform that would continue the "political, ideological and moral traditions" of the KSC.

Stepan called Ruml's proposal irresponsible and unfair.

"This is a completely anti-democratic approach—even if I considered the present situation in the Czech Republic to be democratic at all," he said. "It is true that most of our members were members of the KSC, but that doesn't make their...activities criminal."

Stepan himself was jailed for two years for ordering police to wield truncheons against students during the 1989 revolution.

If the government passes Ruml's proposal, the issue will be sent to the Supreme Court for a final decision.

Kaca Kastner, director of the Foundation for a Civil Society, said the suppression of a political voice is not inconsistent with the precepts of democracy, as long as the proposal passes through the proper channels.

Vaclav Benda, head of the office for the Documentation and Investigation of Crimes of Communism, also defends the proposal. If the Interior Ministry—as defender of the law—failed to register this proposal, it could be accused of acting criminally itself, he said.

"The actions of the Interior Ministry are completely legitimate and correct," Benda said. "But whether or not they are politically wise is another question."

The proposal is a ploy to appease right-wing, anti-communist ODS voters, suggested Jonathan Stein, of the Prague-based Institute for EastWest Studies.

"This is obviously pre-election maneuvering. It was almost inevitable that the ODS would shore up its right flag just before the elections," said Stein, a specialist in Czech politics.

The ODS's voting base consists of both young professionals and anti-communist hardliners with a bone to pick, Stein said.

In terms of potential voters, the SCK, with its radically left-oriented support, represents slim electoral pickings for the right-wing ODS and its coalition partners. The ruling coalition holds 65 parliamentary seats. The SCK holds none, although Stepan boasts an SCK membership of 20,000.

Vera Zezulkova, spokeswoman for the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), calls Ruml's proposal "just another pre-election trick to mix the cards before the election." The KSCM is the leading contemporary communist party, with 10 seats in parliament.

The ODS has always been at the forefront of post-revolution communist-watchdog legislation, such as the 1993 law that deemed the past regime criminal, and last year's four-year extension of the 1991 screening law, which bans former high-ranking communists from holding important government, legal and academic positions. However, both Stein and Zezulkova give long odds against the success of Ruml's proposal.

Czech Republic: Official Concerned About 'Old Structures' in Army

AU2604141696 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 24 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by Ferdinand Peroutka: "Senior Army Officers Are in Touch With General Vacek"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At least four senior General Staff officers apparently are in touch with the post-November [1989] defense minister, General Miroslav Vacek (now Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia), and his group. This statement was made yesterday by Defense and Security Committee Deputy Chairman Tomas Fejfar (Civic Democratic Party [ODS]). He did not reveal their names.

He was reacting to the recent remarks by Defense Minister Vilem Holan, who admitted that certain General

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Staff officers disagree with the reduction in the size of the Army and the cuts in its operational costs. Fejfar is convinced that these officers are "quite obviously the inflexible old structures" that obtained their high-ranking posts on the basis of party careers in the former KSC [Communist Party of Czechoslovakia]. Apart from this, according to Fejfar, there are a few dozen other officers in senior posts who are resisting Army transformation and who should have left the Army long ago. "Of course, the minister has for some time had information on who these people are; we also referred to this at a meeting of his advisory board, but he is oblivious to it," claims Fejfar. According to him, Chief of General Staff Jiri Nekvasil also shares the responsibility for these people remaining in the Army. "He is also aware of the situation; nevertheless, nothing is being done, and, obviously, it will be left until the next electoral term," thinks Fejfar.

Defense and Security Committee Chairman Vladimir Suman (Civic Democratic Alliance), who takes part in the defense minister's advisory board with Fejfar, refused to comment on the issue yesterday. He added that "the time is not right" for going into this matter. First Deputy Defense Minister Petr Necas (ODS) was of the same opinion. He told us that he would like to discuss this issue with Minister Holan first.

Committee Deputy Chairman Pavel Severa (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party) does not have the same information as his colleague Fejfar and is surprised that he was not told of it by Committee Chairman Suman.

Czech Republic: Government Apportions 1995 Budget Surplus

AU2604155396 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 25 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by "(jbn)": "The Cabinet Has Suggested Distributing Last Year's Surplus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—The government proposes using most of last year's state budget surplus, 5.5 billion korunas [Kc], to increase the state financial reserves. The Cabinet made this decision yesterday on the basis of a recommendation from Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik, who had submitted the draft state closing account for 1995 to the government.

Last year, the state's overall economic performance ended with a surplus of Kc7.23 billion since income amounted to Kc439.968 billion and expenditure to Kc432.738 billion. While in previous years the finance minister and the government suggested to parliament that the budget deficit be used to pay off the state debt more quickly, this year "not a word was said about the debt service," said Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus in reply to a question from HOSPODARSKE NOVINY at a news conference after the government session. This time, the Cabinet recommends releasing Kc1.7 billion to increase the health insurance payments that the state pays by law for some beneficiaries. A smaller amount (Kc80-90 million) should be given to the Culture Ministry to cover its removal costs. This year's current budget should cover other expenditure above the amount earmarked.

The government also earmarked Kc2.0 million from this year's funds for humanitarian aid for southern Lebanon.

Czech Republic: Skoda Seeks Consolidation of Truck Industry

96CH0077D Prague PRAGUE POST in English 6-12 Mar 96 p 5

[Article by Brendan McNally: "Skoda Buy-out Follows Tartra's UAE Truck Deal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After more than a year of bad fortune and bad management, good luck seems to have shone on debt-ridden Czech truckmaker Tatra Koprivnice. Just days after being named the unlikely winner of a $180 million (4.86 billion Kc) tender to supply 1,100 trucks to the army of the United Arab Emirates, Tatra found its own benefactor in industrial giant Skoda Plzen.

Skoda's 43.5 percent buyout of Tatra helps to solidify its consolidation of the Czech truck industry. Last year, Skoda bought the other major Czech truckmaker, Liaz.

A number of cooperative efforts are already in the works between the three companies, Skoda's chief, Lubomir Soudek, was all smiles and optimism following the hastily announced signing ceremony held at the Hotel Esplanade in Prague, predicting that the company would begin showing a profit in 1997.

Soudek said Tatra will reassert itself not only within the Russian Federation and China, where joint ventures are currently in the works, but also in India and the Middle East. "We think there is a chance for our vehicle to occupy a truly dignified place within NATO," he said.

The deal, which was expected, occurred when 50 percent of Tatra's shares were suddenly given to Komercni banka, its principal creditor, in a planned debt-for-equity swap.

Komercni banka immediately turned around and sold 43.5 percent to Skoda Plzen, which had been maneuvering to buy Tatra for some time.

"We will capitalize most of Tatra's debt," promised Komercni banka President Richard Salzmann. "I think

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that in three or four years, we will start getting back our investment." Salzmann promised that Komercni banka would not become directly involved in managing Tatra.

Although the takeover had all the appearances of a friendly transaction, Komercni banka's inducements had included filing bankruptcy papers against Tatra in the Ostrava commercial court. Tatra had owed roughly 5 billion Kc ($185 million) to Komercni banka and other Czech banks.

Soudek said the UAE sale demonstrated the quality of Tatra trucks. "It is one of our biggest orders, and it shows the technical capability and power of the company," he said.

The UAE competition was one of the most hotly fought-over contracts in recent years for the world's military truckmakers. It drew all the big boys, with Mercedes, MAN and Oshkosh being the leading lights.

Compared with these, Tatra was consided at best an oddity, and for all the attention the UAE truck competition generated in international defense procurement circles, Tatra received little, if any, mention within the trade press.

Announcing the news, Karel Beneda, Tatra's chairman and general director, reeled with delight.

Tatra board member Jaroslav Jirasek said much of the credit for winning the competition lay in Beneda's own efforts to put the truck in front of the customer's eyes.

"He went down there himself to sell it," said Jirasek. Last April, Beneda brought his entry, the LIWA, a specially designed T-815 variant equipped with a German air-cooled engine and an American automatic transmission, to the INDEX defense-equipment exhibition in Abu Dhabi.

Until then, Tatra had rarely been exhibited at any of the larger Western defense trade shows. At the time, Tatra was at the bottom of its fortunes, having only months earlier rid itself of its disastrous American management team.

Beneda had always been a strong believer that the UAE and other Arab Gulf states constitute the most important new market for Tatra to crack. Tatra had inadvertently already begun making its mark in the region as a result of the Gulf War, when the Czechoslovak Army sent more than 100 Tatra trucks as part of its contribution to the coalition forces. The Saudis were impressed with the trucks' performance and bought them.

"It's true, they stayed there and were sold," said company spokeswoman Erika Sikorova. Since then, she said, Tatra has established dealerships throughout the Gulf. "We have dealers in Qatar, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the UAE," she added.

Most of the trucks will be flatbeds, but an unspecified number will be built with cranes from the Italian firm Fassi, while others will be fitted with fuel and water tanks supplied by Slovak firm VSS.

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Slovakia: Russian Envoy Praises Government's Independence

AU2604155196 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 23 Apr 96 p 10

[Report by "ik": "According to Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the West Does Not Understand Slovakia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—In the opinion of Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, Russian ambassador to Slovakia, the West does not understand the specifics of a young state; it takes it to account neither the history of the Slovak nation nor the Slovak way of thinking and mentality. There is also palpable dissatisfaction [in the West] with the independent line pursued by the government. This was written by Leonid Mlyechin in an extensive dispatch from Slovakia in the Saturday [20 April] issue of IZVESTIYA. "There is this standard Western thinking with which it approaches reforms in the postcommunist world in general," IZVESTIYA quotes Sergey Yastrzhembskiy as saying: "Do as I do, and everything will be fine. If you do it differently, it means that you are doing it wrong. The Slovaks are being told: Look how the Czechs, Poles, and Hungarians are doing it. Why do you proceed differently? Because this is a different country, they want to do everything their own way," says the Russian ambassador, according to IZVESTIYA.

Slovakia: Austria's Schuessel Denies Remark on EU Fitness

AU2604164396 Bratislava SME in Slovak 26 Apr 96 pp 1-2

[Report by "mim" on interview with Wolfgang Schuessel, Austrian minister of foreign affairs, in Bratislava on 25 April: "Vladimir Meciar Did Not Meet With Austrian Minister Schuessel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bratislava—"The statement that, on questions of human rights and democracy, Slovakia currently does not fulfill the prerequisites for joining the EU was not my quote, but was made by the ORF [Austrian state broadcast company] speaker," said Austrian Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wolfgang Schuessel in an exclusive interview for SME during his one-day working visit to Slovakia yesterday. "I was commenting on whether Slovakia would be in the first group of candidates. Anyone who wants to join the EU must fulfill economic conditions, the principles of a pluralistic democratic society, environmental standards, and human rights issues. And all these things will be decided by this country, whether or not it will belong to the EU," Wolfgang Schuessel told SME. In contravention of diplomatic conventions, during his one-day visit chief of Austrian diplomacy Schuessel did not meet with Slovak Prime Minister Meciar, who was busy. Vladimir Meciar was inspecting highway construction in the Kysuce region. [passage omitted]

Asked by SME whether Slovakia fulfills the prerequisites for joining the EU, Wolfgang Schuessel said that the question was not whether or not it fulfills them, but how far individual candidate countries have progressed in the implementation of laws. The answer will come from the European Commission," Wolfgang Schuessel said. [passage omitted]

[Bratislava SME in Slovak on 24 April on page 1 carries a 200-word by "mim" previewing Schuessel's visit to Slovakia. Noting that the Austrian minister would not be received by Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, the SME correspondent observes that "in this context, it is necessary to recall the disagreement of the chief of Austrian diplomacy with the approval of the Penal Code amendment by Slovak Parliament."]

Slovakia: Foreign Ministry on Gyarmati's Accusation

AU2604160696 Bratislava SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA in Slovak 25 Apr 96 p 2

["Statement by Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs," issued by Juraj Matejovsky, the ministry's spokesman; place and date not given: "Gyarmati Did Not Fulfill the Basic Prerequisite"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a full-fledged member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], Slovakia made use of its democratic right and, as early as October 1995, proposed its own candidate for the post of OSCE secretary general—Ambassador Jan Kubis, an experienced career diplomat, who currently holds the post of director of a key OSCE institution, the Conflict Prevention Center. During consultations on filling this post, all OSCE member countries without exception highly assessed the professional and human qualities of our candidate, against whom no objections were raised. The Slovak Republic has never questioned the professional qualities of the Hungarian candidate, Istvan Gyarmati. However, Istvan Gyarmati did not obtain unanimous support of the countries of Central Europe and, hence, did not fulfill the basic prerequisite for being elected. We stress that serious objections to Istvan Gyarmati's candidacy were put forward also by other countries, perhaps also because of the self-serving [ucelovy] and biased personal way of his thinking. He demonstrated this thinking also by his latest statements, in which he accused the Slovak Republic of "enslaving international organizations by its narrow national interests" and of "nonacceptance of his person only because he is a Hungarian national."

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic also resolutely rejects the views of Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Republic, expressed on 23 April 1996 for Slovak Radio in conjunction with the withdrawal of the Hungarian candidate for the post of OSCE secretary general. We express regret over such statements, which damage our positively developing bilateral relations, confirmed by the ratification of the Treaty of Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Republic. Slovakia ascribes great significance to the post of OSCE secretary general, especially in view of the important activities of the OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE's growing role in building an all-European security system.

Slovakia: Meciar on Relations With Vatican, NATO

LD2604211796 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1638 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Regular interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by correspondent Michal Tvarozek; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[Tvarozek] The appointment of Archbishop Dominik Hrusovsky [as papal nuncio to Belarus] is viewed by many people as a weakening of the patriotic wing in the Slovak Bishops' Conference.

On the other hand, it is a fact that relations between one part of the Bishops' Conference and the government are not very good. Other measures have been linked with all this, one of them being the summoning of [Slovakia's] ambassador to the Holy See for talks here at the Foreign Ministry in Bratislava. Prime Minister, in view of all these measures, is there any indication of a change in our attitude toward the Vatican?

[Meciar] I want to make a clear distinction between, first, relations between the state and the church, which are being formed anew, second, the recalling of our ambassador, and third, relations with the Vatican. These are three separate issues.

The summoning of an ambassador is a standard working method. It was used in several other instances, but was not given such a publicity as in this case. The method is used when either the Foreign Ministry wants to get some clarification or it wants to assess the ambassador's activity. [passage omitted]

Our relations with the Vatican are good, or perhaps better than just good. There are a number of agreements that are not being fulfilled. Some of them are, for example, the agreements that I concluded with the Holy Father or the Holy See during my visit to the Vatican. However, I cannot fulfill these agreements as we do not have the support of our bishops here at home. It is not the lack of support for my program, but for the program that was proposed by and agreed upon with the Holy See.

With regards to the relations that are developing between the state and the Church, I have noted that the Church has not attacked the government. The Church is attacking parliament and that is a different matter. [passage omitted]

There have been several appeals for an immediate separation of the state and the Church. I am against any such radical solutions.

[Tvarozek] A bill on accepting new NATO members is going to be submitted to the U.S. Congress, and the Slovak Republic is not on its list. [passage omitted] What steps are we going to take if Slovakia is not included in the first batch of candidates to join NATO?

[Meciar] Regardless of our wishes, international relations are once again undergoing globalization. The world is not being divided, but global talks are under way between global powers. We are not among them.

On the international level, there is currently a certain triangle of interests. There is also our small Central European triangle that needs to be arranged and to balance its internal relations to be able to present them to Western Europe as orderly and good-neighborly relations. Western Europe is not interested in having neighbors that are out of tune with each other.

However, it is a small miscalculation if somebody thinks that it will be okay to include Hungary in NATO, but not Romania or Slovakia. He is mistaken in thinking so.

The other issue concerns petty conditions in our country—in fact not so much petty conditions as petty people. They automatically blow up their personal trauma, defeats, and feelings into something political, turning them into international problems. They are turning issues that would otherwise be of no interest to international institutions into the issue of Slovakia's internal political stability.

This has justifiably given rise to doubts whether we have already reached the level of democracy and maturity to be able to absorb the values represented by the European Union and NATO, and thus whether we will be able to behave according to them.

As regards the above mentioned bill, I do not think that the issue has already been decided upon. We are speaking about a bill that will be developed from a

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legislative and political point of view. I do not think that a decision on NATO's enlargement has been taken. It will be global relations that will determine individual relations.

The Slovak Government has clearly declared its priorities. I have not noticed any opposition party presenting an alternative option. If they are unable to help these processes, at least they should not hinder them. Everybody bears responsibility for this. It is not the government's issue.

I do not think that a decision on NATO's enlargement will be made soon and I do not think that somebody will exclude us from this process. However, I cannot rule out a scenario in which these internal political conditions in our country might cause a postponement—but not a rejection. These two things are different.

Slovakia: Cabinet's Behavior Toward EU, NATO Criticized

AU2904121296 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 26 Apr 96 p 9

[Commentary by Ivan Horsky: "The Decision on Entering the EU and NATO Is Our Own"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, the problem of Slovakia's admission to the EU and NATO has again become one of the central themes of domestic policy. Media disputes have been triggered by some information from overseas as well as from Western Europe, which seemed to confirm the definitive deletion of Slovakia from the list of first candidates for entry into these economic and political and security structures.

Juraj Schenk, the chief of Slovak diplomacy, is right when he says that the enlargement process is not the Tour de France. However, this is only a partial truth. It is true also for diplomacy that it is necessary to scream aloud and declare one's interest, simply try to convince the partners-to-be of one's own interest in becoming one of them. Quiet diplomacy must be combined with loud, though unobtrusive, but effective pressure, including lobbying at all possible levels.

At the same time, this effort must correspond as much as possible to the rules of the club we want to join. It is therefore expected of each candidate that the basic characteristics of his political conduct will be compatible [with EU and NATO rules]. Arguments such as that we are a young state do not change this in the least. In this context, they sound rather as pseudoarguments aimed at concealing other political goals or the inability or unwillingness to behave on the slippery diplomatic ground in an at least somewhat acceptable manner.

At the same time, no one is expecting us to be servile and to submit at any rate without presenting our own ideas. The only limit in this respect is the specific weight of the candidate, which can, however, be balanced out by a combination of different political, security, economic, or other factors.

It is as if some kind of voodoo dances were starting over the admission of new candidates, particularly into NATO, because the EU's expansion will evidently be a longer term process. And not just within the ranks of the Alliance, but also within the ranks of candidates, including Slovakia.

Vladimir Meciar's government is behaving like a prima donna who had been booed by the audience for a poorly sung aria. It does not want to realize that defiant behavior, kicking around, and accusing everyone else instead of looking into a true, and not a distorted, mirror is counterproductive and only heightens passions and criticism against it. Instead, it believes that it will increase its price in this way.

According to certain signals, the decision on the first candidates for NATO admission has essentially been made. It seems that, in the first phase, the candidates will be Poland and the Czech Republic. Hungary, in view of the fact that it would not directly border on the Alliance in such a case, could fall into the second phase. Whether together with Slovakia or with Slovenia will depend only on the decision of the government in Bratislava.

NATO is not forcing anyone to become a member. That is the basic premise. A different question, however, is the quest for security guarantees for a small state in Central Europe such as Slovakia. And this is the most serious problem. Not only for us, but also for our neighbors who will have to start acting accordingly.

Slovakia: 'Government Coterie' Said To Disregard Laws

AU2904072896 Bratislava NOVY CAS in Slovak 26 Apr 96 p 2

[Article by "ay": "This Is Not a Year of Restraint for Everyone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—At the KDH [Christian Democratic Movement] news conference yesterday, Mikulas Dzurinda, deputy chairman of this movement, dealt with the peculiar economic hobbies of the present government coterie.

He pointed out that in this "year of restraint" declared by the government, the National Property Fund assigned 2.5 million korunas [Sk] of its budget for the purchase

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of vehicles. These vehicles were to be used by the National Property Fund inspectors. Although the Fund has no inspectors, a BMW 740 car with license plate BLI 26-28 was purchased. This car is being used by Milan Rehak, chairman of the Executive Committee and vice president of the National Property Fund. The sum of Sk2.5 million was not sufficient, however, as he also purchased Sk312,000 worth of extras, also paid by the National Property Fund. Incidentally, these extras include aluminum rims, wood-inlaid interior, plush carpeting, and elbow supports. "It is being done in a proper Bolshevist fashion; no car for inspectors, but a car for a bigwig," Dzurinda added, and he gave another example of disregarding the laws. According to Law 119 on conflicts of interest, no state official, which includes the deputies of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, can conduct business activities. According to the excerpt from the business register dated 23 April 1996 submitted by the KDH deputy chairman, the board of the Elektrosvit Co. of Nove Zamky includes J. Garaj, and M. Baranik is chairman of the supervisory board. Thus, the deputies for the Association of Workers of Slovakia and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia are violating the law. "They preach water and drink wine. They have declared a year of restraint for us, but they act as if a year of boundless abundance were declared," Dzurinda concluded serious accusations against the members of the government coalition.

[Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 26 April on page 2 adds that Stefan Gavornik, president of the National Property Fund Presidium, told the Radio Twist "Zurnal" program yesterday that "the purchase of the BMW car was pointed out to him by the supervisory board that is investigating the case." Gavornik emphasized that "no one in the National Property Fund can afford to buy a car for Sk2.8 million. Nevertheless, he does not want to comment on the affair until the supervisory board does. Regarding the reports of his alleged dismissal from the post of president of the National Property Fund Presidium, Gavornik said that "what the barber knows, everybody knows, so it is quite possible that there is some truth in it.... If the parliament dismisses me, I will humbly accept the decision."]

Slovakia: SDL Chairman Sees Election Success as Priority

LD2804113996 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 0900 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fourth Congress of the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL] continues in Nitra [southern Slovakia] today. Its new chairman Jozef Migas gave an interview to the Czech Press Agency CTK shortly after his election [27 April].

In the interview, he stressed that he saw his most important task as the SDL chairman in taking the party to an impressive success in the 1998 parliamentary elections. This is why, he said, the SDL intends to continue its opposition left-wing policy. According to Jozef Migas, neither the decision not to join the government coalition, nor the decision to act as an independent left-wing opposition party will be overturned before the elections.

Speaking to CTK, Jozef Migas confirmed his intention to ask, in the next few days, to be released from his diplomatic post of Slovak ambassador to Ukraine.

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Hungary: Kovacs 'Not Concerned' About Anti-EU Sentiment

LD2704162796 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The EU representative in Budapest has handed over to Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs the union's list of admission criteria. [passage omitted]

The Hungarian parliament has unanimously voted for Hungary's OECD membership; there were no votes against nor abstentions. [passage omitted]

It is likely that Hungary's membership of the EU will receive a similar vote—if the ballot were held today. However, there is an antiprivatization sentiment in Hungary and some people believe the West wants to colonize us, while others hold the view that Hungary has been part of Europe for a millennium and therefore, it does not have to join the EU, it is sufficient to create Europe here in the country. There are arguments like these and at any time and for any reason, such as election campaigns or party political considerations, these voices can become strong.

[Begin Kovacs recording] [passage omitted] I am not concerned that this kind of anti-Europe feeling end could grow really strong. Many of the arguments put forward here are very naive and are based on a type of development model that sees development relying solely on the country's own resources, which is completely unreal in the case of a small country in the middle of Europe, such as Hungary.

Therefore, I do not think that we have to view these people as a serious threat. [passage omitted]

Hungary: MDNP Member Assesses Opposition's Chances

AU2604164696 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 26 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Gyorgy Rasko, a member of the MDNP executive committee, by "megyeri"; place and date not given: "Before an MDNP Weekend—Rasko: Moderately but Firmly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of a political group that is not even two months old will be holding their inaugural meeting this weekend. This is the Hungarian Democratic People's Party [MDNP] that was set up in early March by 40 people, mostly politicians and public figures who had left the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF]. We interviewed MDNP executive committee member Gyorgy Rasko on the present and the future of the new party and on the chances of opposition cooperation.

[UJ MAGYARORSZAG] The latest public opinion polls seem to suggest that the coalition led by the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] is virtually unable to bring any restrictive measure which would reduce its popularity. In this situation, what chances can the opposition's cooperation have?

[Rasko] It is extremely unfortunate but it is true that, according to the popularity polls, the MSZP is starting to reach its popularity registered at the time of the elections. All the opposition parties are struggling at a very low level. Today it is clear that the Christian Democratic People's Party's [KDNP] idea that it wants to become strong alone—which it declared a year ago—has proved to be an illusion. This means that, in the remaining two years before the elections, all four opposition parties should only be thinking about how they could set up an election alliance. This is especially true because, with hindsight, it is even easier to see that the momentum which brought successes at the local government elections and at the presidential elections, clearly indicated the social acceptance of opposition cooperation.

[UJ MAGYARORSZAG] However, the economic policy programs and ideas are not always compatible.

[Rasko] It cannot be denied that marked differences exist. The Federation of Young Democrats-Hungarian Civic Party and the MDNP consider an explicitly liberal economic policy based on economic competition expedient. We are not ashamed of the term liberal, but we make a huge distinction because, contrary to the current government coalition, we are not thinking in terms of creating a balance by disregarding people and society. On the contrary, we believe the human factor and the unfolding of the abilities of the creative man to be of primary importance. The MDF and the KDNP more markedly represent the state's greater role in the entrepreneurial assets. However, the two ideas can be brought closer together; in fact, they can be brought to the same platform. We have no time to waste, the four moderate parties should sit down as soon as possible to clarify the issues and to make compromises. A positive move can already be seen at the KDNP which can also be noted in their keynote speeches made in connection with bills on economic issues.

[UJ MAGYARORSZAG] What kind of coordination can you see with the Independent Smallholders Party [FKGP]?

[Rasko] It is not even worth talking about the FKGP's economic ideas because it is a hotchpotch based on explicitly left-wing and communistic ideas. In addition, public opinion poll data indicate that a decreasing sec-

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tion of society requires the attitude [FKGP Chairman] Jozsef Torgyan has recently amplified.

[UJ MAGYARORSZAG] In the case of a new party, it is always more emphatically asked how it can inform people of its program which is different from other parties.

[Rasko] This indeed is our most difficult task because the public opinion polls also indicate that, at the moment, we are the least known party, only about half the population is aware of our existence. Naturally, in the case of a barely two-month-old political formation this is not a tragedy, but we have to do all we can to work out a serious marketing program. As a first step, the session of the founders will decide on the new logo, the party's visual representation, and then we will publish leaflets in which we present our economic and political ideas on all issues which large sections of society are interested in. In every case, we give an answer to three questions: What do we want, why, and how? For example, in the case of tax levels and duties, we want a definite reduction because we know that the high tax level encourages a restriction of performance, but lower taxes encourage higher performance. The way we want to do this will be explained in our program for the election strategy, but we would definitely consider a major reduction of the personal taxation level necessary. The same way, in our regional development program, we find it essential that anyone investing in the economy in an underdeveloped area should receive at least a five-year company tax exemption. We will distribute many hundreds of thousands of copies of these easy-to-understand and clear ideas.

[UJ MAGYARORSZAG] Do you really think that society has a heightened expectation toward opposition cooperation?

[Rasko] I am convinced of this and it is also my experience. Sober-minded ordinary people often ask during my visits to the provinces why the moderate parties representing conservative, Christian, and national values do not march together. We should definitely achieve an election alliance by 1998 which could also be followed by a union in 2002. The French UDF [Union Democratique Francaises] could be an example which, in the 1970s achieved great successes as an election alliance made up of small republican parties and now it is doing the same, keeping the separateness of the parties but with a joint executive committee.

Hungary: Workers at U.S. IFOR Base Appeal to Prime Minister

LD2804183696 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade union of the employees of the IFOR [Implementation Force] base at Kaposvar and Taszar has appealed to Prime Minister Gyula Horn for help, because their wages have dropped by almost 50 percent over the past few months.

They decided to take this step because, according to them, their U.S. employer had forcefully prevented them from exercising their rights laid down in law.

The trade union's secretary told a Hungarian radio correspondent that the IFOR kitchens' employees had practically nothing to lose because of their present low wages. They will not tolerate the attempt to prevent them from asserting their interests, the trade union leader added.

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B-H: UN Envoy Criticizes U.S. for 'Anonymous Statements'

AU2604194896 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhamed Sacirbegovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina ambassador to the United Nations and President Izetbegovic's special adviser for the implementation of the peace agreement, today denied allegations published in certain U.S. papers that foreign troops are active in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It is time to relinquish such stories to the past, Sacirbegovic said at today's press conference in Sarajevo. He added that daily, unsubstantiated stressing of such statements was damaging Bosnia-Herzegovina's and its peoples' reputation. Sacirbegovic stressed that he was concerned about reports in serious papers like THE NEW YORK TIMES, which, using statements of anonymous diplomats and U.S. officials, claims that terrorist and fundamentalist groups are active in areas under Bosnia-Herzegovina Army control. It is time to either identify the real problem or keep silent. This is a message to those governments who allow their officials to make such statements, Sacirbegovic said.

According to him, the Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities particularly expect the Administration to make sure that U.S. officials do not make such anonymous statements, but identify themselves and offer evidence for their claims. The United States and the Implementation Force must finally say where the problem is, Sacirbegovic stressed.

B-H: Government Blames IFOR for 'Ecological Incident'

LD2704200396 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A number of issues were discussed at today's session of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government chaired by Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic.

The government was informed that IFOR [Implementation Force] was responsible for an ecological incident in the Olovo Municipality, because it had dumped waste of unknown origin and content in two ditches dug in fertile land in the Olovo area. This is a serious threat to the environment of Olovo and other towns and villages in the lower part of the Stupcanica and [name indistinct] river basins.

In order to stop the further use of the ditches and the pollution of this part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, it was concluded that a delegation of the government of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, headed by Prime Minister Muratovic, should visit the town today and urgently seek information from IFOR on the types and quantities of materials dumped so far.

The government demands that IFOR immediately determine the situation in the field, return matters to their previous state, and compensate the Olovo municipality and owners of the land for the damage caused.

The government also demands that IFOR provide guarantees to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government that the officers in command of the units that caused the damage will leave the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

B-H: Provisions of Petersburg Declaration Summarized

AU2604190196 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, at the invitation and under the auspices of FRG Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, high ranking Federation and Bosnia-Herzegovina officials, FRG, U.S., and Croatian Government representatives, UN officials, and World Bank officials in Bonn yesterday signed the so-called Petersburg Declaration on the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The signatories to this document once again vow to accelerate the implementation and full functioning of the Federation and all its functions. They also reiterate their commitment to the Dayton agreement on the implementation of the Federation dated 10 November 1995 and provisions of the Geneva framework agreement on peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina of 14 December 1995, support for the Rome declaration of 18 February 1996, the Geneva declaration of 18 March 1996, and the Sarajevo agreement on the Federation of 30 March 1996.

The signatories to the declaration vow speedily and fully to implement those provisions of the Sarajevo agreement that have still not been implemented. It is worth stressing that provisions of the peace agreement referring to refugees and displaced persons are again reiterated. These people have the right to return to their homes throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina and the right to human rights protection.

Part of the declaration concerns setting up cantons within the Federation. It was stressed that it is necessary to set up legislative and executive structures in all the cantons and municipalities throughout the Federation by 14 May 1996, when a session of the Federation Forum is scheduled to take place in Washington.

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The signatories support the principles of the agreement that refer to the future organization of Sarajevo, which envisage that the capital is organized on three levels: a comprehensive canton with its suburbs, the city, which is to comprise the urban municipalities, and the main district under Bosnia-Herzegovina administration, which will include those (?buildings) essential to the functioning of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole.

In terms of human rights, the signatories are committed to the full implementation of rights of all people throughout the Federation, as a condition for lasting political and social stability, and the return of refugees. In the field of human rights, the president and vice president of the Federation will be authorized to appoint a human rights officer of high moral principles to each cantonal administration.

Finally, the signatories reiterate their commitment and responsibility for the consequences of the nonimplementation of provisions in the Sarajevo agreement.

B-H: Political Parties Disapprove of OSCE Election Rules

AU2504144196

[FBIS Report] Sarajevo VECERNJE NOVINE (European edition) carries in its 25 April issue on page 4 reactions of Bosnia-Herzegovina's political parties to the election rules and procedures announced by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to be observed in the coming elections.

Mirsad Ceman, secretary general of the ruling Party of Democratic Action (SDA), says that election rules show that, while working them out, ambassador Frowick and members of the Temporary Election Commission interpreted provisions of the Dayton accord in such a way as to find in it "more elements for Bosnia-Herzegovina's disintegration than for its integration." He also points out that his party "is not satisfied" with this document. "The party is particularly dissatisfied that, with regard to the vote on state bodies, including the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in no case can the entire state be taken as a single constituency, although this is anticipated by the Dayton accord. Besides, the possibility has been left to refugees to vote for state bodies in the municipalities where they want to live, which means that ethnic cleansing will be implicitly legalized," Ceman says.

Ivan Vidovic, chairman of the City Board of the Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ), says "these solutions are not just, because such election rules favor and approve of the aggression, the expulsions of people, and the ethnic cleansing. If a man cannot vote on his native soil, this is not just. We do not know what we shall do, but the HDZ cannot accept any approval of crimes. With such election rules it is the displaced and the refugees who will lose again."

The Presidency of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) considers some of the proposed rules on the registration of voters absolutely unacceptable. "These rules legalize the state of affairs created through crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, prevent the return of refugees and displaced persons, and encourage the further ethnic division of Bosnia-Herzegovina," the SDP statement reads. The SDP Presidency also believes that the proposed concept, according to which the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina will still be divided into two separate electorates, even when it comes to the vote on the central authorities of the state, "directly encourages the further disintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Sejfudin Tokic, deputy chairman of the Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina Social Democrats [UBSD], says that "after the presentation of the election rules and regulations, the UBSD considers those rules to be a kind of legalization of ethnic cleansing, disintegration, and the reduction of space where one can lead a normal life in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Most of the displaced persons and refugees have no chance of even visiting their former homes, let alone exercising their rights as voters there. Therefore, to speak about such a right is a sheer farce. However, despite all that, our party will be running in the forthcoming elections, and at all levels."

In the statement issued by the Liberal Bosniak Organization [LBO] it is said that, since they do not have any insight into the election documents, that is, the rules and regulations drafted by the Temporary Election Commission of the OSCE, the LBO "is not in a position to make any comment. Besides, they have not announced any novelties in that regard, though we had hoped that there would be some changes in accordance with earlier proposals and remarks made by the LBO and other political parties."

Mujo Kafedzic, deputy chairman of the Muslims Bosniak Organization [MBO], says that the party thinks that an "undemocratic method" of drafting the election rules has been used, because Frowick's commission acted like a schoolmaster, denying the right to representatives of Bosnian political parties to state their opinions on this matter. "These rules favor the forces of disintegration, undemocratic elections, and the current authorities' staying in power and they cement the ethnic cleansing and the ethnic division of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Parties should seriously consider whether to take part in the Bosnia-Herzegovina elections organized in such a way," Kafedzic says.

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Stjepan Kljujic, Presidency member and chairman of the Republican Party, says that "the current rules are a consequence of the Dayton accord and they prevent at least 1 million people from voting. If the ruling parties [SDA and HDZ] support the provision that voters are entitled to vote in the places where they currently reside, rather than sticking to the 1991 census, we shall face a potentially dangerous change of the demographic structure of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Republicans believe that all the voters should vote in their prewar places of residence. As for the Serb Republic, elections will be conducted there at the municipal, cantonal, and Federation levels."

Stanko Sliskovic, chairman of the Croatian Peasant's Party [HSS] of Bosnia-Herzegovina, says that the election rules "are not at all satisfactory. The rules legalize what we have most feared, that is, the existing state of affairs in all its aspects. Elections carried out under such rules will call into question human dignity, for they take into account the war's psychological dimensions and people's memories, so that such elections will not bring about anything good for us. The HSS will be making joint efforts to preserve Bosnia-Herzegovina and initiate the process of reintegration."

The Civic Democratic Party [GDS] of Bosnia-Herzegovina thinks that the rules and regulations "do not make possible the full realization of the authentic interests of Bosnia-Herzegovina's citizens, particularly when speaking about the return of refugees and displaced persons." Ibrahim Spahic, chairman of the GDS, says that "the international community cannot be only the bearer of authority, but it also has to be the responsible mediator in the situation when limits ought to be set to compromises that might further endanger the sovereignty and integrity of the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

B-H: EU's Casado Says Mostar Elections of Great Significance

AU2604151596 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Report by Mirsad Behran from Mostar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ricardo Peres Casado, the new EU administrator in the city on the Neretva River, at the beginning of his first press conference said that the forthcoming elections, scheduled for the end of May, were of great significance for the unification of Mostar, because they will enable the setting up of city authorities.

The municipal and city electoral committees are in session. More information on the results of their work is expected in the coming days. The two sides have still not reached a final agreement on the elections. This was stated at today's regular news conference in the EU Administration Headquarters. The Croatian side believes that conditions have been met for May elections, while the Bosniak side has complaints about the freedom of the media and freedom to form political organizations in the city. Moreover, there is the question of whether Mostar refugees will be able to participate in local elections.

Ricardo Perez Casado said that the Bosniak side was giving its full support for the forthcoming elections and added that he was optimistic that all problems would be overcome.

At today's news conference, journalists were informed that the reconstructed Customs Bridge would be reopened to traffic at precisely 1200 [1000 GMT] on 30 April. This is one of the largest projects undertaken by Europe in Mostar.

B-H: EU Administrator Confirms Mostar Elections Postponed

LD2704124496 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1231 GMT 27 Apr 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, April 27 (TANJUG)—New E.U. Administrator for Mostar, Ricardo Perez Casado of Spain confirmed on Saturday that local government elections in this south Bosnian city, scheduled for late May, had been postponed.

In a statement to Muslim Sarajevo Radio, Peres Casado said that the election committee in Mostar had demanded a six-week period between the announcing of the exact date of the elections, and their actual holding.

The Croatian Radio, however, said that the elections in Mostar had been scheduled for late May in keeping with the Dayton Peace Agreement and that the Croatian side is opposed to any postponement.

The Croatian Radio said that a session of the Mostar Advisory Council, held on Thursday evening, had failed to coordinate the Muslim and Croat stands.

The Croats, the radio said, believe that all conditions for holding the elections have been created, but the Muslims are critical about the freedoms of political organizing in the entire city and the freedom of the media. They have also said that refugees from Mostar would be unable to vote.

Mostar was the site of fierce year-long battles between the Bosnian Muslims and Croats over territories. The fighting destroyed a large part of the city which was

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in the summer of 1994 put under a two-and-a-half-year administration of the European Union. The first administrator Hans Koschnik of Germany, however, resigned in February and ceased all activities in early April. Koschnik resigned after the Mostar Croats protested his decision to unite the city by holding mass demonstrations in which Koschnik himself was attacked, and the E.U. bureau in Mostar demolished.

B-H: Expulsion of Non-Croats From Mostar Continues

LD2804123496 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1140 GMT 28 Apr 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, Apr 28 (TANJUG)—The expulsion of non-Croats from west Mostar has continued even after the arrival of the new E.U. Administrator Ricardo Perez Casado (Spain), Muslim Radio Mostar reports Sunday.

Croat exptremists expelled one Muslim and one Serb family from their homes two days ago, and Croat police in the western part of the town beat a muslim for no reason on Sunday, the radio says.

Casado took over last week the administration of this Herzegovina town divided into Muslim (east) and Croat (west) parts.

Former administrator Hans Koschnick (German) resigned last February, after the Croats undermined his plans for reuniting the town.

There is no freedom of movement, worship of political organizing for the remaining Muslim and Serb population of west Mostar, the radio says.

B-H: Bosnian Official on Status of Bosniak, Croat POW's

LD2604225096 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After the peace accord had been signed, the Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities started the release of POW's. Our government had freed most POW's—that is, all the ones against whom there was no sufficient evidence that they were war criminals.

[Begin recording] [Amor Masovic, president of the state commission for exchange of POW's] At this moment, in prisons, or to be more precise, in the Sarajevo District prison, there are 12 persons of Serb nationality, members of Serb paramilitary formations, some under suspicion [for war crimes], others already accused as war crimes perpetrators. [end recording]

The Serb entity authorities have not shown willingness to cooperate, while the fate of over 8,000 men missing since the occupation of Srebrenica is still unknown.

At this very moment in the Pale prison, seven Bosniaks and 10 Croats are imprisoned in very difficult conditions under alleged accusations of war crimes.

Five civilians who have been arrested without any foundation are imprisoned at this very moment in the prison of Kula. Among them are three minors recently arrested in Zlatiste [a suburb of Sarajevo] and two civilians captured in Dobrinja [a Sarajevo suburb].

These persons were not captured during the war operations, and it is difficult to understand why the international police and other institutions are not doing their utmost to secure their release.

Four Bosniaks from Zepa are still imprisoned in the camp of Sljivovica and in Belgrade under alleged accusations of war crimes. [passage omitted]

B-H: Bosnian Authorities Release 'Abducted' Serb

LD2604170596 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1631 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 26 Apr (SRNA)—Zoran Tot, abducted on 1 February on the bridge of Serb Fighters in Grbavica, was released today from a Muslim prison in Sarajevo.

He was brought to Pale at 1700 hours by members of Bildt's team (Louis Sel) and (Peggy Hicks), who were received by Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the People's Assembly of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic.

Tot said he was manhandled and maltreated by the Muslims, which is attested to by bruises on his head and ribs.

B-H: Hague Court Rejects Gen Djukic's Appeal

AU2604181796 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hague, April 26 (AFP)—The UN war crimes court rejected Friday [26 April] attempts by lawyers for Bosnian Serb General Djordje Djukic to have the charges against him dropped.

Djukic, who has been released conditionally by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on humanitarian grounds, was indicted on March 1 for crimes against humanity and contravening the Geneva Convention for his role as the Serbs' logistics chief in the 43-month siege of Sarajevo.

Doctors say Djukic, now in the hospital in Belgrade, has terminal cancer of the pancreas.

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B-H: Muslims Distribute 'Extremely Provocative' Leaflets

LD2704154896 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1330 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Srpsko Gorazde, 27 Apr (SRNA)—Muslims dropped leaflets—calling for a jihad, under the Hamas [as received] flag, against Serbs—as a column of [Bosnian Government] vehicles passed through Serb Gorazde on the Sarajevo-Gorazde blue route yesterday.

These leaflets, which are militant in tone and extremely provocative, were thrown from vehicles in the Muslim convoy in full view of IFOR [Implementation Force] members who were escorting them.

Believing that such incidents and provocations are even more serious when it is known that the Serb side has been facilitating the safe movement of Muslim vehicles along this road, the civilian authorities of Serb Gorazde have announced that they will be delivering a sharply-worded protest to the IFOR headquarters and the Muslim side.

B-H: RS's Koljevic, French Envoy Discuss Situation, Elections

LD2604211996 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1811 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 26 Apr (SRNA)—Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic [RS], and the French ambassador to the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yves Gaudin, this evening discussed the implementation of the civilian part of the Paris agreement and the situation in the RS in anticipation of the forthcoming elections.

Koljevic said after the meeting that the talks focused on the organization and preparations for the upcoming elections and the voting rights of refugees from the Republic of Serb Krajina [in Croatia] living in the RS.

"We also talked about the incidents which occur when Muslims try to enter Serb territory without prior notice, which we regard as forcible entry.

"We warned that it is necessary for the Muslims to announce their arrival in our state in smaller groups," the RS vice president said.

The French ambassador to the RS and the Muslim-Croat federation, Yves Gaudin, said that he and Koljevic had discussed "the reactions here and the regulations covering the elections, as well as concrete issues such as the voting rights of displaced persons and refugees.

"This is a very difficult question and its resolution calls for a lot of pragmatism," Gaudin said.

B-H: Serb Vice President Discusses Return of Refugees

LD2604154396 Pale Srpska Radio-Televizija First Program Serb Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Statements by Muslim leaders and the forced entry of Muslim civilians into the territory of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic are new methods of manipulating civilians by the government in Sarajevo.

We asked Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the Serb Republic, to what extent this is connected with the forthcoming elections:

[Begin Koljevic recording] I believe that they [the incidents] are primarily connected with the elections, but I also have to say that there is not much of the political culture when it comes to elections and when people use such means.

First of all, I would like to recall the basic stipulation of the Dayton agreement on the return [of refugees]: the return should be possible or there should be a just compensation.

Therefore, this issue should be resolved independently of the electoral situation. It should be regulated in a different way. I have already had a chance to discuss this in Geneva—accompanied by IFOR [Implementation Force], certain visits, certain considerations whether people will want and how they will be able to return, how the Serb refugees will be accommodated who, in such a situation, cannot be thrown out in the street. [sentence as heard] Do these people really want to return and how long will it remain possible for them to return? Do they want to exchange their property? All of this could be [?resolved] in a civilized way, not as an organized political action, without weapons, but with physical forays, physical attacks. Then it is no wonder that physical incidents happen on both sides.

On the other hand, it is clear that such incidents are born out of the wish to connect them with elections. Namely, with the following leading thought: If we could become a majority, let us return even if we do not stay there. So this is an electoral manipulation, just so that the Muslims can elect a leadership which suits them—although I do not believe, I have to say I do not believe, that a great number of people want to live apart from their people. This seems simply unnatural to me. If there are such people for whom financial considerations, their property, or let us call it more poetically the call of their hometown, are more important, these people should not allow themselves to be manipulated, to be used in the electoral campaign to enforce a conflict situation again,

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now that before the elections we should be calming the situation if we want a lasting peace. [end recording]

B-H: Sjenina: Displaced Muslims Plan Organized Return

LD2604210196 Tuzla Radio Tuzla in Serbo Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The attempts by displaced persons to return to their homes is again the subject of this news bulletin. Several hundred Sjenina residents in the Doboj municipality gathered at a second rally in Lukavica-Rijeka near Gracanica, which was also attended by officials of the East Dobar municipality. Unanimous support was given to the first organized visit to Sjenina followed by a permanent return. [passage omitted]

Now it is time for the people to return to their homes. So that there is not a repeat of the sickening scenes witnessed in the vicinity of Doboj, Zvornik, and Kalesija in recent days, when the Serbs used all means to prevent the Bosniaks from returning to their homes, the people of Sjenina will return in an organized manner. We want our homes, we will build a life with the Serbs and our own lives. Our homes are only ours, everyone must recognize that. The Serbs who are in our houses should leave them and go to their own homes. Each to his own. This was the basic message from the rally of the people of Sjenina.

B-H: Croats Prevented From Entering Modrica

LD2604160696 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1411 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Modrica, 26 Apr (SRNA)—After yesterday's gathering of the citizens of Modrica [Serb-controlled north Bosnia], who prevented an attempt by Croats to enter the [Bosnian] Serb Republic from the direction of Vukosavlje, the Muslims postponed their entry into the Modrica municipality, which had been announced for 28 April.

After the Croats had given up, it became clear to their federal partners [Muslims] how the Serbs really felt about "visits" of this kind—representatives of Modrica municipal assembly reported after a meeting today with Muslim representatives in the IFOR [Implementation Force] U.S. base in Modrica.

B-H: SDA, HDZ Agree on Refugees' Return to Zepce Area

AU2604142096 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Report by Faruk Sukcevic from Zepce—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] A draft proposal for the return of 16,500 refugees—the return is envisaged in three stages—was approved at a meeting of Party of Democratic Action [SDA] and Croatian Democratic Community [HDZ] representatives of the Zepce, Maglaj, and Zavidovici municipal councils. The meeting took place in Zepce. It seems that the negotiations, which have been going on for almost a year now, will have a successful end. Faruk Sukcevic has the details.

[Sukcevic] The general assessment is that political conditions are ripe for the start of the project. It was agreed that the authorities of the three municipalities in question and international institutions should secure initial funds to alleviate the refugees who will be returning to mostly damaged homes. It was moreover agreed that in the initial phase—this was proposed by the HDZ—740 Croats would return to the region of (?Vijesce) and Brezovo Polje. The proposal was accepted, as was the SDA proposal, according to which 2,300 Bosniaks would be returning to Ze[illegible] that is, the district of Prijeko, the Maglaj district of Novi Seher, and Zavidovica Vrbica.

It was also agreed to hold a session of the HDZ municipal council in the next seven to 10 days to endorse the agreement [words indistinct] the second phase and settlements to which Bosniaks and Croats will be returning.

Once the second phase is completed, an analysis of the return project will be carried out, and the third phase of refugees return defined. The delegations also received guarantees from EU monitor representatives and mediators that they would do everything to ensure that international humanitarian organizations—governmental and nongovernmental—secure the necessary funds [words indistinct] reconstruction of damaged houses.

B-H: International Police Intervene in Zvornik Area

AU2604192596 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Report by Hasan Hadzic]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, the Bosniaks of Dugi Do, exercising the rights granted to them by the Dayton agreement following the D+120 deadline, have returned to their homes situated in the Serb entity.

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For several days they were exposed to provocation by Serb civilians from the Sarajevo suburbs, who tried to settle in their houses; during an intervention by the Serb police at the access point to the village, four villagers were physically maltreated.

Following yesterday's agreement between the local community leadership and international mediators, today was the first day that a Serb police patrol passed through the village accompanied by international police. The event passed without incident. It was moreover agreed that in the future, Serb and international police would patrol Dugi Do. It is also worth noting that the entire process is being closely monitored by Implementation Force members, while members of the Council for the Return of Refugees in Zvornik municipality have requested that maximum attention be devoted to protection in the future.

The citizens of Dugi Do, who are contributing significantly to the reintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have requested state aid for the construction of a road and other facilities.

B-H: Serbs, Muslims Agree on Doboj, Teslic Visits for Bairam

LD2604221296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] People from Doboj and Teslic will be able to visit their homes and cemeteries during Bairam public holidays. Fahrudin Hrnjic reports:

[Hrnjic] Representatives of Tesanj and Gracanica municipalities in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation and representatives of Doboj and Teslic municipalities in the Serb entity held a meeting, organized by IFOR [Implementation Force], in Potocani near Doboj yesterday. They discussed and determined the freedom of movement procedure on the basis of the Dayton agreement.

According to Teslic Mayor Fuad Sisic, it was agreed at the meeting that people who used to live in Doboj and Teslic municipalities before the war and who now live in the Federation could visit their homes and cemeteries in the municipalities under Serb control during Bairam public holidays.

In the course of today the lists have been prepared of those interested in visiting. The visits will be organized every day and the number of visitors will be limited to only four to five buses.

The same is offered during Bairam public holidays to Serbs who left Tesanj and Gracanica during the war.

B-H: UNHCR Ready for 'Violent Confrontations' Among Refugees

AU2704133296 Paris AFP in English 0743 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, April 27 (AFP)—The UN refugee agency is readying for a series of potentially violent confrontations between refugees trying to return home and rival ethnic groups try to stop them, a UN official said here Saturday.

"There are about a dozen marches and returns planned in the next few days, they are likely to happen over all this area" of northern Bosnia, Margarethe Prins, an official with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said.

Most of the marches and attempted returns by bus are by Moslem groups trying to enter the Serbs' Republika Srpska to see family homes and graves.

On Sunday, which marks the first day of Kurban Bayram, a three-day Moslem religious festival which includes the slaughter of sheep and visits to the graves of relatives and friends, a group of Moslem refugees are to attempt to enter the flashpoint northern town of Brcko.

The visit has been agreed in advance but "could cause trouble" one aid worker said here.

The NATO-led Implementation Force has got "contingency plans for all of the possible confrontations we know about this weekend," NATO spokesman Major Simon Haselock said in Sarajevo on Friday.

He called on authorities and individuals on all sides to behave in a "restrained and sensible manner."

Earlier this week, one civilian was injured when two suspected hand grenades were thrown when about 250 Moslems clashed with 150 Serbs just south of Tuzla.

And in western Bosnia, Croat police blocked a group of around 600 Serbs from returning their homes in the western town of Glamoc.

A UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo called earlier this week for "more political pressure" to be put on the central authorities on all sides to force local authorities to stop blocking the returns of refugees to their homes.

Under the Dayton peace treaty, signed in December in Paris, all 2.4 million refugees and internally displaced people uprooted by the Bosnian war, should have the right to return to their original homes.

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B-H: Serbs Say Muslim Visit to Prijedor Threatens 'Integrity'

LD2704152696 Pale Srpska Radio-Televizija First Program Serb Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Prijedor Municipality Assembly and Municipal Committee of the Serb Democratic Party today held an extraordinary session prompted by the announced visit of a large group of Muslims to different towns in Prijedor municipality. Zivko Ecim reports:

[Begin Ecim recording] The agenda of the session consisted of intelligence information on tomorrow's visit by a large number of Muslims to Kozarac, Kozarosi, Kamicani, and Trnopolje. As the visit has not been agreed upon officially—it is known with certainty that it will be headed by well-known Muslim extremists, that it was planned in Germany, and will be followed by German correspondents and government officials—all relevant information was assessed at today's session and certain conclusions made. Milomir Stakic, mayor of Prijedor, will tell us more about it:

[Stakic] The assembly and its deputies assessed the situation as very serious and expressed great concern because of this and similar visits being planned by the other side, with the aim of threatening the integrity of the Bosnian Serb Republic.

All deputies in the assembly are in favor of honoring and implementing the Dayton agreement, but not at the cost of violating the Serb Republic borders, jeopardizing the territory of the Serb Republic, and threatening the dignity of the citizens of the Serb Republic.

The assembly believes that all big visits have to be agreed upon at the level of the two entities' [Bosnia-Hercegovina Federation and Serb Republic] governments and not at the level of municipalities or, God forbid, local communities, as some forces persistently insist. In this way, they attempt to annul the existence of the newly formed Serb Republic.

[Ecim] Obviously, some are in a hurry to proclaim Bosnia-Herzegovina a union even before the Dayton deadline. So these forced attempts—from Brcko, Teslic, Doboj, to our town—should be seen as attempts to threaten the integrity of the Serb Republic and fraudulently achieve the goals which could not be achieved by war. [end recording]

B-H: Serb Republic General Warns IFOR of Muslims' Return

AU2704151596 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, April 27 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb military leader General Ratko Mladic has warned the international peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia not to allow Moslems to enter Serb-held regions, IFOR said Saturday [27 April].

Lieutenant Colonel Max Mariner said IFOR did not reply to Mladic's warning which was contained in a letter, in accordance with its refusal to communicate with the Serb officer who has been indicted of genocide.

"Have we received a letter from Mladic, a letter, a letter of complaint? Yes," Mariner said.

He said he had not read the letter and did not know whether it contained threats.

However, another IFOR officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the letter arrived Wednesday and was addressed to IFOR commander Admiral Leighton Smith and IFOR ground commander Michael Walker.

According to the officer, Mladic said in his letter that he could not guarantee the safety of IFOR troops in the event of protests as all his troops were now confined to barracks, under provisions of the Dayton peace accords.

Mladic complained that IFOR facilitated visits of displaced people to their homes in regions they had to flee during the war.

Plans by groups of Moslems to visit villages in the Serb-held Republika Srpska have provoked tension and international officials have said they fear serious incidents could occur.

IFOR units could be called on to intervene to ensure these incidents do not escalate as they have on several occasions in the past days.

According to the unnamed officer, Mladic wants to give the line separating the two Bosnia-Herzegovina entities—the Republika Srpska and the Moslem-Croat Federation—real border character with Serbs controlling crossings.

The war in the former Yugoslavia displaced nearly 2.4 million people, but the Dayton peace accords which were signed in December, give them total liberty to return to their pre-war homes.

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B-H: Bosnian Serb Police Poised To Thwart Mass Entries

LD2704161496 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1537 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pale, 27 April (TANJUG)—The interior Ministry of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic [RS] announced today that there are indications that Muslims from the territory of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation are planning to enter RS territory in the areas of Prijedor, Doboj, Brcko, Bijeljina, Zvornik, Serb Sarajevo, and Srbinje [Foca].

Larger groups of Muslims, it was said, will certainly include people charged with causing provocations. Such entries have the aim of provoking incidents, clashes, and disturbing public peace and order, the statement said and added that all units of the RS Interior Ministry have been ordered to take measures for preventing clashes and large-scale disturbances, as well as for the protection of the legal system and territorial integrity of the RS.

RS Interior Minister Dragan Kijac and Dragisa Mihic, his deputy for security affairs, have informed the international police force and IFOR [Implementation Force] about the security measures. They have been urged to discourage the Muslims from mass entries into the RS and to prevent undesirable situations.

B-H: Serbs Warn of 'Bloodshed' If Muslims Cross Border

LD2704225496 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2133 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 26 April (SRNA)—The announcement of forcible mass crossings into the territory of the Serb Republic [RS] during the Bairam holidays and under the guise of freedom of movement has the aim of provoking incidents so the Serbs could be accused of torpedoing the Dayton agreement, RS Interior Minister Dragan Kijac told SRNA this evening.

According to reliable information, an invasion by some 100,000 Muslims is expected all over the RS—from Prijedor, Doboj, Bijeljina, Zvornik, and Brcko, to Sarajevo and Srbinje [Foca].

The RS Interior Ministry has learned that there will be a large number of provocateurs and armed people, which could lead to clashes with Serb civilians and have unforeseeable consequences.

Especially disturbing is the fact that the insecure Serb population will organize to protect itself, so conflicts and bloodshed are almost a certainty.

It is interesting to note that all these activities are being organized and prepared by the SDA [Party of Democratic Action].

"Apart from being an attempt to provoke and condemn the Serbs and depict them as the side disrespecting the Dayton agreement, these Muslim activities are a result of Alija Izetbegovic' and Ejup Ganic's feverish endeavors to reestablish a unitary and single Bosnia-Herzegovina in which the Muslims would rule as a majority," Kijac said.

These Muslim provocations were the subject of discussion in Pale today between Minister Kijac, Dragisa Mihac, his deputy for security matters, Jock Covey, head of the headquarters of the International High Representative, IFOR [Implementation Force] Brigadier Wilson, and Colonel Detlef Buwitt in the international police force.

"We told our collocutors that this has nothing to do with freedom of movement and asked them to influence the Muslim-Croat federation's Interior Ministry to prevent these crossings and to take measures to avert incidents," the RS interior minister said and added:

"We warned that, if all fails, we will be compelled to use all available means to protect public order and peace."

"They agreed to engage themselves in this respect and talks with Muslim Interior Minister Avdo Hebib are under way, and they promised that IFOR units would be deployed along the separation lines in order to prevent the Muslims from realizing their intentions," Minister Kijac said.

He said that certain instructions had been given to Interior Ministry units, stressing that the RS Interior Ministry "must act in accordance with the law and constitution, because it alone is responsible for the security situation on RS territory, for the protection of its territorial integrity, and the interests of its citizens."

"In this respect we will do everything to prevent possible incidents, regardless of IFOR's presence along the separation lines," Minister Kijac said.

He recalled the unpleasant experience of ten days ago when the Muslims tried similar provocations near Doboj and Zvornik, where armed incidents took place.

"There could even be bloodshed if the Muslims cross into Serb territory en masse," minister Kijac warned.

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B-H: Bosnian Police Calls For Calm During Bairam Marches

LD2704225896 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina has decided to lift the curfew on the occasion of the Bairam holidays—from tonight to 2 May.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina appeals to the citizens to remain calm and dignified when crossing from the territory of one entity into the other. The police of the federation, IFOR [Implementation Force], and international police will maintain public order and peace on the territory of the republic.

B-H: Muslims Plan To Visit Former Homes During Bairam

LD2804083196 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0700 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of 300 Bosniaks [Muslims] from Prijedor will today visit their homes and cemeteries in Prijedor [west Bosnia], the town where, since the beginning of aggression, more than 30,000 Bosniaks have been killed or are still missing.

During Bairam holidays nearly 500 Bosniaks will visit Teslic [southwest of Doboj], and more than 800 will visit Doboj [northern Bosnia] and the neighboring area.

According to IFOR [Implementation Force] and the international police, the visit by Bosniaks to Doboj and Teslic will be completely safe.

B-H: IFOR 'Braced' for More Violence During Bairam

AU2804132596 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 28 Apr 96

[Report by Jacques Charmelot]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sarajevo, Apri' 28 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb and Moslem leaders told the NATO-led peacekeeping force (IFOR) Sunday they would act to prevent violent clashes as groups of Moslem refugees try to return to their former homes in Serb-held territory.

NATO troops are braced for further violence in northern Bosnia following recent clashes between groups of largely Moslem refugees and mainly Serb civilians.

IFOR spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Max Marinner, said: "The interior ministries of the parties have formally accepted their responsibilities and have said they will prevent civil disorder and maintain law and order."

He did not say what measures the parties had proposed.

On Saturday, IFOR, deployed in Bosnia to separate the former warring forces and guarantee freedom of movement, said that if asked by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) it would "take appropriate measures to restrict or prevent large-scale movements of vehicles in order to assist in controlling the situation."

It denied the move was a restriction of freedom of movement or was tantamount to giving in to threats of Serb violence.

IFOR said it condemned political authorities of both sides in the dispute for "orchestrating the violence."

And Marriner warned on Sunday: "Soldiers are the wrong people to control crowds. It is a recipe for disaster."

Several marches are planned for Sunday by Moslem refugees trying to visit homes in the flashpoint towns of Doboj and Brcko and the village of Mahala, near the Moslem-held town of Kalesija.

Sunday is the first day of Kordan Bayram, an important Moslem festival, and many Moslems are keen to return to their home towns for a first post-war visit to family graves.

"Things go wrong when they want to make a political statement with those visits. We do not want a religious festival to turn into a political hijacking exercise," Marinner said.

NATO troops deployed forces around the towns early Sunday but there was as yet no sign of a mass movement of Moslems, an IFOR officer said.

"We will be ready for trouble if it comes, but of course we hope there won't be any," said the officer, who asked not to be named.

IFOR has accused the authorities on all sides of attempting to provoke and organise confrontations after a series of violent clashes in the past week. [passage omitted]

B-H: Muslims Prevent Serbs From Visiting Cemeteries

LD2804125796 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1203 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Banja Luka, 28 Apr (SRNA)—Muslims prevented yesterday the announced visit by the Serbs from [Bosanski] Petrovac [west Bosnia] to Orthodox cemeteries in the area of Petrovac municipality, making it a condition for permission to enter the territory of municipalities of Prijedor and Novi Grad [Bosanski Novi].

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The visit had been agreed upon earlier with representatives of the Implementation Force [IFOR] and local Muslim authorities in Petrovac.

After they had prevented the visit by Petrovac Serbs, Muslims uprooted the gravestones at Sljivari and Tresnjice cemeteries and carried them to the lines of separation so that, they said, the Serbs could light candles for their loved ones.

Only after a strong protest, IFOR representatives returned the gravestones to their proper places.

The Petrovac Serbs returned [word indistinct] to [word indistinct] and Derventa this morning.

B-H: Prijedor Exiles' Homecoming Postponed for 15 Days

LD2804154296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The exiled citizens of Prijedor have not succeeded in their attempt to return to their homes. At the Implementation Force's [IFOR] request, the crossing has been postponed for 15 days. Zarif Tanic reports from Sanski Most.

[Tanic] Former residents of Prijedor, some 1,500 of them from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, from Sanski Most and [word indistinct] have not succeded in their attempt to visit the graves of their families, to visit Prijedor, to return home.

Citing precautionary and security reasons, IFOR, UNHCR, European observers, and NATO have not allowed residents of Prijedor to return to their homes, after four years of exile, at least for a few moments. Everything has been postponed for 15 days. IFOR assures us that the road to Prijedor will then be free and secure. [passage omitted]

Peacefully, with dignity, as befits human beings, the former residents of Prijedor protested against the IFOR decision to prevent them from returning home, confident that the next time, in 15 days, they will not be able to stop them.

The residents of Prijedor are firm in their decision to return to Prijedor, to their Prijedor.

B-H: 'Angry' Serbs Block Bosniaks From Entering Doboj

AU2804134496 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, April 28 (AFP)—A crowd of around 100 angry Bosnian Serbs, armed with sticks and stones, Sunday blocked three buses of Moslem refugees from entering a northern Bosnian town, a NATO spokesman said.

The Serbs started massing at a NATO checkpoint south of the Serb-held town of Doboj shortly before midday, Major Terje Myklevoll said.

"They are pretty threatening. They are armed with sticks and stones," Myklevoll said by telephone from Doboj.

The Serbs have said they will not let the Moslems into Doboj to visit their family graves, he added.

Doboj's Serb mayor Drago Ljubicic earlier told Bosnian Serb radio in Doboj that he had agreed to let two buses of Moslems into the town to visit their family graves.

Sunday is the first day of Korban Bayram, a three-day Moslem religious observance in which people slaughter sheep and visit family graves.

This is the first Bayram since the Bosnian war ended last year.

Polish troops of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR), who are under orders to prevent violent confrontations this week, had stopped the three buses south of Doboj and were conducting negotiations to try to allow them access to the town, Myklevoll said.

"We are currently negotiating the situation," he said.

Doboj was the scene of a violent clash between Moslems and Serbs last Sunday when a large group of Moslems attempted to enter the town.

Serbs attacked the Moslems who had to be protected by IFOR troops using the downdraft of two low-flying Apache helicopters to drive the Serbs back to their side of the dividing line.

Meanwhile, southeast of the town of Tuzla, US IFOR troops were preventing even single vehicles passing from the Moslem-held town of Kalesija to the Serb-held village of Mahala.

The scene at the US "checkpoint Charlie" was quiet. No vehicles registered on the Moslem side of the former frontline were being let through.

"We're trying to stop the movements that we feel could be a threat to the peace," US Captain James O'Neill told AFP, adding that a Serb vehicle had been stopped on the other side of the checkpoint and found to hold two hand-grenades.

O'Neill said it was the Serb authorities who wanted the Moslems not to come through the checkpoint.

The Serbs "would like the IEBL (the former frontline that is now the inter-entity boundary line) to become a real boundary," he added.

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B-H: Muslim Refugees Visit Doboj Cemetery 'Without Incident'

LD2804143696 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1413 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Doboj, 28 Apr (TANJUG)—Today's visit by Muslims to Doboj proceeded without incident.

Escorted by IFOR [Implementation Force], UN civilian police, the UNHCR and Serb Republic police, the Muslims passed through Doboj and visited the Muslim cemetery in the old quarter.

A large number of Doboj citizens—including many refugees from the Muslim-Croat federation—protested at the Muslims' arrival, but the visit was not disrupted.

Last week several thousand Muslims were prevented from forcibly entering Doboj.

Today's visit was agreed between the Serb and Muslim sides, through the mediation of IFOR and international organizations.

B-H: Serbs Refuse Visit to Teslic by 150 Bosniaks

LD2904083196 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Exiled Bosniaks today visited Doboj but the Serb authorities refused to allow the exiled former residents of Teslic to enter their town. Mirudim Odobasic reports:

[Odobasic] After more than four years, almost 100 exiled Bosniaks who now live mainly in the free territories of the Doboj area today visited Doboj. IFOR [Implementation Force] and international police forces made the visit possible.

The visit was organized on the occasion of today's Bairam holiday. It was agreed that the people from Doboj could visit their cemeteries, and their homes too, from which they were expelled almost four years ago.

The Serb authorities in Doboj honored the agreement on the visit, enabled them to visit the cemeteries, but did not allow the visit to homes.

According to the people who visited their town today, the one-day visit went without significant incidents. We have been informed that it is planned for a group of 200 Bosniaks to visit Doboj tomorrow.

Meanwhile, also on occasion of Bairam, a group of 150 Bosniaks left Tesanj for Teslic. Unfortunately, in spite of all attempts by the international forces, the former residents of Teslic could not visit the graves of their families and their homes because the Serb authorities did not allow it. Instead, they organized a large meeting in the center of Teslic which was attended by more than 5,000 Serbs.

At the meeting the Bosniaks were rudely insulted and it was said that they have no place in the town. In addition to that, the Bosniaks were not allowed to enter Teslic in the morning. Several hundred Serbs were waiting at the entrance to the town ready to throw stones at the Bosniaks and to attack them physically.

The Teslic authorities told us today that the visit is being postponed for another occasion for which they will not wait long.

B-H: Serbs Prevent 500 Muslims From Entering Teslic

LD2804192796 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We registered yet another in a series of violent Muslim attempts in the village of Vrela on the Teslic-Doboj road today. The Tesanj Muslims had previously announced this attempt to cross the state border without Serb agreement, but they were stopped by unarmed Serbs from Teslic today.

More than 1,000 unarmed, self-organized Serb patriots—mainly refugees, were at the bulwark of their state. Throughout yesterday and this morning the Muslim media had boasted that they would enter Teslic one way or another.

After reports from Doboj [on Serb-Muslim compromise], when it seemed that the Muslims here would also abandon their violent plans, a group of 500 extremists set off toward the Serb territory at 1200.

They clearly intended to provoke an incident in the presence of IFOR [Implementation Force] and international police, an incident that they could use for the further demonization of the Serbs. The unarmed people of Teslic again behaved in a civilized manner showing a high degree of tolerance despite the most vulgar type of provocations. The Serb patriots withdrew 1 km into their own territory and decided to wait for the Muslims there in case they were allowed to pass through the IFOR checkpoint.

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B-H: RS Official Condemns 'Abuse' of Muslim Freedom of Movement

LD2804190596 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 96

[Quotation marks denote recorded passages]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Muslim attempts to forcibly cross into the territory of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic [RS], Momcilo Krajisnik,

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president of the RS People's Assembly, said that this was a case of deliberate abuse of freedom of movement aimed against peace. In a statement to ASSOCIATED PRESS, the president of the Serb parliament said that the Dayton agreement precisely outlined everything and that there could be no ambiguities.

[Krajisnik] "What the other side is trying to do now is exclusively aimed at provoking incidents, and I must say that we are very concerned—not because the Muslims are trying to do this, but because of the extremely passive reaction by the international community.

"The Muslims must be condemned for these incidents. The peace is fragile and everything must be geared toward reconstruction and the the reestablishment of trust, because it is much easier to resume fighting than establish trust.

"The Muslim leadership's call for war and the creation of a unitary and—in their view—sovereign Bosnia is in fact an order to those who are now making these rash moves. I am appealing to the international community and to the other side and saying that freedom of movement can be honored—we have nothing against freedom of movement—but this is not freedom of movement but a premeditated act against peace."

[Announcer] Speaking about repatriation, President Krajisnik pointed to the issue of accommodation for 200,000 Serbs who left their homes following the signing of the Dayton agreement.

[Krajisnik] "We must first accommodate these people who left, we must provide them with basic living conditions. They are now in reception centers in Pale and everywhere else.

"There is now talk of return for those who ought to return to their homes in this region—which is completely justified, I would like everybody to return to their homes—but how can they return if more than 200,000 Serbs have been expelled?

"The international community must make up its mind—it either wants to expel the Serbs from their homes and cleanse the territory of the Muslim-Croat federation or it wants everybody to return to their home."

B-H: 500 Muslims Assemble in Milin Birt To Head for Prijedor

LD2804145296 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1419 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prijedor, 28 Apr (TANJUG)—A large group of about 500 Muslims today assembled in Milin Birt [as received], 6 km from Sanski Most, with the intention to set off toward Prijedor. [passage omitted]

Another group of Muslims of approximately the same number was formed near Sanski Most with the same purpose. The attempt at forced entry toward Prijedor had been announced for today on several earlier occasions.

This group of Muslims was headed by German journalist (Tilmar Zilh) and the journalist from Bihac, Semra Saracevic.

Their way was blocked by a large group of citizens from Prijedor who came 2 km from the line of separation with the clear intention not to allow them to enter Prijedor by force.

The two groups have not met yet, but IFOR [Implementation Force] and the international police are ready to intervene.

IFOR's Major (David Last) today said that, regardless of the outcome of the attempt today, it is known that the Muslims will try to do the same on the same spot in two weeks.

The Serb side today comments on IFOR's extremely correct behavior in this situation.

B-H: Prijedor Mayor Thanks Citizens for 'Human Shield'

LD2804200296 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1911 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prijedor, 28 Apr (SRNA)—Mayor Milomir Stakic, president of the Prijedor Municipal Assembly, this evening publicly thanked the citizens of Ostra Luka and other villages in the Prijedor municipality for stopping the Muslims in a peaceful and dignified manner.

Speaking on Prijedor Radio, Stakic called on the assembled citizens to disperse because, he said, "there is no longer any need for them to be a human shield against the Muslims."

The Prijedor Municipal Assembly president warned the citizens to remain extremely alert, as similar Muslim provocations are expected this week and next.

Around 3,000 Muslims from Sanski Most and returnees from Germany today tried to cross from Milin Birt into Ostra Luka, on the territory of the Serb Republic.

A group of 500 of the most extreme among them, who gathered in Milin Birt at 1630, abandoned their attempt to enter Prijedor after around 1,000 Prijedor citizens blocked their way.

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IFOR [Implementation Force] soldiers and members of the international police force deployed nearby did not try to prevent the Muslims' entry into Prijedor municipality.

B-H: UNHCR Demands More Cooperation on Refugee Returns

AU2904112296 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 29 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, April 29 (AFP)—The main UN refugee agency called Monday for Moslem and Serb local authorities to allow small groups of refugees to return to visit homes they were driven from in the early days of the Bosnian war, ahead of a phased return of thousands of refugees.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mans Nyberg, said the agency had asked refugee ministries in both the Moslem-Croat Federation and the Serbs' Republika Srpska to allow small-scale "assessment visits" by refugees to their homes.

"We have asked the ministries of refugees to promote and assist those assessment visits," Nyberg said.

On Sunday, NATO troops using tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles blocked roads and cross roads outside several flashpoint towns in northern Bosnia to prevent large-scale movements of refugees because of fears of violent confrontations.

A group of around 200 Serbs armed with clubs and stones Sunday prevented a pre-arranged visit of around 150 Moslems to a family grave site south of the town of Doboj. Polish troops stopped the Moslems from entering the town of Teslic, near Doboj, for fear of a clash with the Serbs.

US NATO troops also stopped Moslem cars travelling from the Moslem-held town of Memici to the Serb-held village of Mahala, where bloody confrontations had broken out Thursday. Nyberg said the UNHCR was "very relieved" that there had not been any clashes Sunday and denied that the new NATO policy of blocking large-scale movements of populations was a restriction on freedom of movement, which is guaranteed under Bosnia's Dayton peace treaty.

"We don't see the stoppings as restrictions of movement," he said, suggesting that several of the recent attempts by mainly Moslem groups of refugees to return to their homes were "forced...orchestrated political demonstrations and as such they represent a threat to peace and public order."

Moslems interviewed by AFP at Memici Sunday denied, however, that they were being forced into their attempts to return to their homes early and criticised controls put on their movements by the NATO troops.

One Moslem man, who said he wanted simply to return to his home on the Serb side of the line, said the NATO troops were "playing the game" of the hardline Serb leadership who want to turn the boundary line within Bosnia into a firm border.

B-H: Muslims Attempt To Cross Into Serb-Held Doboj

LD2904134296 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1248 GMT 29 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Doboj, 29 Apr (SRNA)—The Muslims tried again to enter the territory of Doboj municipality in an irregular way. Today they tried to enter from the direction of Tesanj and Gracanica thus jeopardizing the safety of the Serb people.

According to the Doboj security services center, the Muslims planned to cross the separation line and enter the [Bosnian] Serb Republic territory at irregular crossing points rather than across the pontoon bridge near Sevarlije, as agreed with IFOR [Implementation Force] and the International Police Task Force.

A large group of Muslims also tried to enter locations in the same area through the separation zone northeast of Doboj. SRNA was told by the IFOR's Nordic-Polish battalion command that they have reports of a group of about 200-300 Muslims moving along the Zulu 22 road near Sjenina Rijeka.

NATO aircraft stepped up the number of flights over Doboj area in direct reaction to developments in this part of the Serb Republic.

B-H: Serbs Stone Bosniak Convoy Trying To Visit Trnovo

AU2904142896 Paris AFP in English 1335 GMT 29 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, April 29 (AFP)—Serb civilians Monday [29 April] attacked a convoy of some 500 Moslem refugees from Sarajevo forcing them to abandon a planned visit to the Serb-held town of Trnovo, police and witnesses said.

The Serbs hurled stones and rocks at the convoy of six buses and several cars which left the Moslem-controlled Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza late morning, and forced it to make an about-turn, an officer in the Ilidza police station said.

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The policeman could not immediately say if there were any casualties among the Moslems, who were travelling to Trnovo for their first post-war visit to family graves.

Monday was the second day of a three-day Moslem religious observance in which Moslems slaughter sheep and visit their family cemeteries.

The convoy of buses Monday was given an escort from the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) which on Sunday stopped several attempted returns by refugees to villages and towns in Serb-held territory for fear they could lead to violence.

IFOR has accused local authorities of deliberately orchestrating violence.

Under the terms of the Dayton peace treaty, all refugees and displaced people have the right to return to and reclaim the homes they were driven from during the war.

The Serb authorities in Bosnia have frequently threatened not to allow Moslems and Croats back into areas from which they were forcibly "cleansed" in the three and a half year war.

B-H: Radio Commentary Compares IFOR to Former JNA

AU2904142196 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 29 Apr 96

[Commentary by Jesenko Krehic]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Serbs have been visiting, touring, and assessing the situation in the Sarajevo districts that came under federation authority in February and March, and more and more of them have been deciding to return. The crossing of the so-called separation line has not posed a problem at all. Whoever wishes to cross from the Serb entity to the other side can do so. The Implementation Force [IFOR] troops have been monitoring all this, satisfied that there have been no incidents. The reintegration is only a matter of time.

However, it is evident that the Bosniaks have not been too eager to cross to the territory of the Serb entity. Their fear is quite understandable following all the reports from the access points to Doboj, Zvornik, Prijedor, and Brcko. The optimistic tone from the beginning of this commentary is absolutely uncalled for. The Dayton agreement thus pales into insignificance daily, and there is less and less talk about its basic premises. The basic premise, let me remind you, is the freedom of movement and the right to return home, which is something that many factors in the world would now like to forget or at least rephrase. That is why IFOR is doing the opposite from what it should be doing.

The events at the access points to Doboj confirm this. [Word indistinct] the Serbs from Doboj to greet the visitors, the future returnees, with stones, and then they stood between the two sides, thus uncannily resembling the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] when it allegedly acted as a buffer force to prevent conflicts. And we know whose side it later took. Two days later, IFOR did something even worse. It separated the two entities with barbed wire. The Bosniaks could not cross to the other side, and after everything that has been seen so far, one could have expected IFOR to invite someone with a Serb flag and a sign saying the Serb Republic—border crossing. That would presumably have rearranged the Dayton agreement to their liking.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, peace is having an effect. Some almost-forgotten issues are again on the forefront. People are talking about salaries, jobs, holidays, even football scores. As for the return, the people are aware that patience is necessary. However, even patience has its limits. One day the Bosniaks will definitely set off for home, regardless of IFOR, the barbed wire, the stones hurled at them in a gesture of welcome, and the reactions of the international community. Then it will definitely be too late for the international busybodies to try again.

B-H: UN Reconstruction Office for Sarajevo Closes Down

AU2604202296 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, April 26 (AFP)—The special UN office for the reconstruction of Sarajevo shuts shop this weekend after nearly two years attempting to restore basic utilities to the Bosnian capital.

William Eagleton, who was appointed special UN coordinator in 1994 charged with the resumption of essential services in the then-besieged city, announced the end of the mission at a press conference Friday [26 April].

Since Bosnia's Dayton peace treaty was signed in December last year, many of the basic utilities, including gas, water and electricity supplies, have returned to Sarajevo, ending the need for the UN mission, Eagleton said.

A small UN team will stay in the city to continue to oversee existing small scale projects, Eagleton said.

The main work coordinating the international effort at the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina is being done by the World Bank and the European Union.

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Croatia: Defense Minister on Health, Relations With U.S.

AU2904092896 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 24 Apr 96 p 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Gojko Susak by Nenad Ivankovic and Vedran Matosic; place and date not given: "I Feel Fine, and I Work 15 Hours a Day"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [VJESNIK] Minister Susak, a lot has been said and written about your health problems lately. The press has even claimed that your health is not your private matter anymore, but one of the most important state issues. You are considered to be one of the most powerful persons on the Croatian political stage, and a list of your possible substitutes has been made, just in case you become unable to continue to perform your duties as minister. Even a certain kind of sketch of your substitute's characteristics has been made. What are the facts, and what are just rumors?

[Susak] Since last summer I had suffered from severe pains in my back and my right shoulder, and the diagnosis of an inflammation of a nerve was made. I endured the pain for several months thinking it would go away, and after all the examinations were completed I was told there were two possibilities: Either to desensitize the nerve, or to control the pain that might eventually go away by itself. However, the pain kept getting stronger, and it was certain that the inflammation was serious and would not go away. After the Christmas holidays, when the pain became really unbearable, I contacted Minister Perry's [title as published] personal doctor, and he suggested I go to the United States for an examination. In an examination that lasted several hours they discovered cancer in my right lung, the kind that spreads very quickly, but it was discovered in time to be surgically removed without consequences for my health. Now everything has been taken care of, and I feel fine.

[VJESNIK] Do you work as much as you did before the operation?

[Susak] I work normally; in fact, I work 15 hours a day. The cut has healed on the outside—the scar is visible, of course, because the incision was quite long—but I have been recovering without problems.

Holbrooke and Perry Persuaded Me To Go to the United States

[VJESNIK] However, your going to the United States to have the operation was not unplanned, primarily because of your relations with Minister Perry, but also because of your reputation in the Pentagon. It would be interesting to hear from you how it all came about, in short.

[Susak] Ever since Washington, as you know, I have met him often and under various circumstances. Mr. Holbrooke suggested on several occasions that I come to the United States for an examination, because he noticed it was difficult for me to find a comfortable position to sit in during our conversations. Minister Perry noticed the same, and he urged me to do something about it as soon as possible. When the pain became so severe that I could no longer work normally, he offered to organize everything about the examination. I agreed, and I cannot find words to describe the way I was treated. I was in an elite clinic for high-ranking U.S. officials. There are wards for the President's closest associates and a ward for high-ranking visitors. I was placed in the so-called presidential ward. Just to illustrate the way they treated me, I will tell you that the chairman of a Senate Committee was at the same time placed in the visitors' ward. They invited me to stay for another month, until I recovered completely, but I refused.

[VJESNIK] Your arrival in Zagreb was very impressive, especially when you and Minister Perry left the plane together. Minister Perry demonstrated his human compassion for you as a person, which exceeds ordinary relations between two ministers. Such a "personalization" of politics is a normal thing among politicians of the Western world, but it was quite a new thing here, especially since we are a small country, and the United States is a big force.

[Susak] Compared with others, I have the big advantage of being familiar with the American culture and the mentality of their people. However, if you observe American internal affairs closely, you will see that there are no careerist politicians. A new administration brings new people. Their attitudes always depend on how well each of them knows the situation in a certain country. Sometimes an American President or a Canadian Prime Minister at the beginning of their term have to visit a country they know nothing about, not even which language is spoken there. However, fair play is very important in their culture: If you are fair, you are treated in the same way. Whenever I told Perry that Croatia would do something within a certain period of time, that is what happened—and Americans appreciate that very much.

They have two levels of politics. There is State Department on one side and the Pentagon on the other. The Pentagon's policy is more determined in the strategic sense, more stable and—in the long run—more defined than State Department policy. Ever since we first met, Minister Perry and I have been friends. He insisted that we call each other by our first names instead of "Minister."

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[VJESNIK] What does Minister Perry call you? Does he have difficulties with the pronunciation?

[Susak] He calls me Gojko, and he tries to pronounce it correctly. I also call him by his first name, Bill. At a banquet honoring our delegation he delivered an informal speech welcoming the young Croatian state, and he also expressed his great respect for our victorious army.

[VJESNIK] So, we can assert that our country—and every Croat gained a new dignity with "Operation Storm."

[Susak] Yes, but that is not only characteristic of this level of ministers and friends. It is true of all levels.

It Is Unrealistic To Expect Harmony in Europe

[VJESNIK] You talked about the two levels of politics, about the State Department and the Pentagon; you are familiar with both, and it would be interesting to hear to what extent the United States is counting on the Croatian partnership in the long run, and how much it is about certain ephemeral tactical interests of a great force.

[Susak] I think that Croatia, with its geopolitical position, does not have much chance without the support of the United States. There is no country in Europe, regardless of how dominant in this region, that could completely protect our interests if they wanted to.

[VJESNIK] Europe appears to need a certain kind of American protection. The European internal controversies seem to be quite difficult to overcome.

[Susak] That is right. Moreover, it is unrealistic to expect harmony and agreement in Europe. It is also unrealistic to expect the United States to let anyone take over the leading part in this region.

[VJESNIK] What is the present military cooperation between the United States and Croatia like? As we know, we have always tried to educate our officers according to the American model.

[Susak] At the moment, 30 of our officers are attending different military courses in the United States. I have also been informed that a Croat from Canada, a volunteer and a member of the 4th Guards Brigade, Jasmin Drnazin, is attending West Point as the first Croat. Are you aware of the criteria for enrolling there? As many as 28 countries had six candidates each, and only 10 were accepted. Out of almost 800 candidates, our man has managed to enroll. We have to be proud of that. As far as the military level of our cooperation is concerned, there cannot be any major changes, regardless of the official administration. Relations between Minister Granic and Secretary of State Chistopher may be very good, but not as good as between Minister Perry and myself. The military level is constant. That is one of the reasons for our orientation toward the United States, but there are other reasons, too.

[VJESNIK] What could we say about the U.S. cooperation with Croatia, what interests can a global superforce have in Croatia?

[Susak] If we are a regional force, as we have every prerequisite condition to be—not in the sense of expansion, but in the sense of being a stable democratic state—the Americans can only be glad of having such a partner, and such a connection can bring them political profit. They are aware of the changes in countries from Poland to Bulgaria, as well as of the fact that we are far ahead of everyone else when it comes to military issues. Still, all those countries had armies before we formed ours, and none of them were under the embargo as we were. We have to bear in mind that we are a borderline area, because Russia—the imperial, the Soviet, or the post-Communist one—is a giant standing between two worlds. You have heard about the Russian attitude toward the possible membership of Hungary in NATO. They were not very enthusiastic about that.

Prevlaka Can Only Be Demilitarized

[VJESNIK] Mr. Susak, the issue of Prevlaka is a particularly intriguing one. If there were a general consensus to exchange that part of the Croatian territory for the Dubrovnik hinterland, what do you think the reaction of the United States would be? The problem of Prevlaka has often been put in the context of relations between the two forces.

[Susak] We have never been in the situation to discuss that, not even hypothetically. There were often rumors among our public about Milosevic offering the Dubrovnik hinterland—the territory of another state—in exchange for Prevlaka. All such rumors are sheer nonsense. It just cannot be done. We cannot make an arrangement with Bosnia-Herzegovina and give something to Montenegro, nor can we make a deal with Montenegro and give something to Belgrade. The Americans know that very well. The only thing that can be done—and that we have agreed to do—is to demilitarize the zone. Everything else is nonsense.

[VJESNIK] Would you please tell us whether the recent changes in the personnel of the Croatian Army can be interpreted as attempt to get us into the project of Partnership for Peace, or was it an attempt of the HV [Croatian Army] to get rid of the former JNA [the Yugoslav People's Army] staff?

[Susak] Some people thought it was an impertinent act on my part, because I signed those decisions just

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before I went to the States for the operation. There has been a lot of speculation about that. However, I can tell you that the redistribution of personnel according to the army districts [zborna podrucja] had been made before. New commanders were appointed for the new army districts, and that is one of the reasons for the staff changes. The second reason is: When the HV was being formed, we decided that the people who contributed most in the Homeland war should be given the most prominent positions. During the past period, we elaborated the system of education for commissioned and noncommissioned officers, and there has been great progress. Now we have personnel of supreme quality, and they are ready to take responsibility. Some people who are leaving have to leave according to the law, and I think that nobody could object about Ante Gotovina being appointed the chief inspector of the HV, since he is an officer shaped by the Homeland war. The commanders of guards brigades—Korade, Krsticevic, Norac—have become commanders of army districts, and I think their appointments cannot be disputed. If the army were to function on the basis of the elections, I think those young people would be in their present positions.

[VJESNIK] To what extent are such decisions connected with attempts to be admitted to NATO's Partnership for Peace?

[Susak] Everything can be connected. When it comes to our military education standards, all American generals who visited Croatia were impressed by those. For instance, they were all impressed by our training center in Sepurine, founded by generals Roso and Gotovina. U.S. officers have asserted that the center was as good as the American ones. Believe me, U.S. generals know our generals' names. Our new staff have another important quality—they have a good knowledge of foreign languages, which, with certain exceptions, we could not say about the old staff educated in the JNA.

Civilian Sectors Take Care of Former Soldiers

[VJESNIK] Mr. Susak, the process of solving problems of demobilized soldiers does not seem to be as quick as it is desirable. Have there been any changes?

[Susak] The Minister of Labor and Social Welfare has reported to the Government about the present achievements. As a ministry, we are under a lot of pressure; we know we have to do something, just as in the issue of disabled veterans, widows, and families of missing or fallen soldiers. We cannot force a private employer to employ or lay off anyone, but it would only be fair to give a demobilized soldier a chance. Should he prove an unsatisfactory employee, he can be laid off. The companies that have not become private just have to keep their employees.

However, civilian ministries have to take care of those issues. They have announced they will provide a good program for that. I say this publicly, however offended my colleagues from other sectors may be. We must not have situations like the one when we found 300,000 cows after the action, and they had to be rounded up by the army. However, there are explanations for certain things—we could not allow ourselves the luxury of publicly announcing our action. Half of my generals did not know about operations "Flash" and "Storm" at the moment they began. Jarnjak was the only minister who knew about it, and it was another guarantee of success. Thus many people were not prepared for the things that followed, things necessary for the quick reestablishment of the civilian system. We mobilized 100,000 men for the action, and they had to go home afterward. Their salary was provided by us for three months after the demobilization, and the civilian sector had to be consolidated during that period. When we come to that problem, certain people are still not able to make a decision and stand by it. They seem to avoid responsibility.

They Cannot Dispute the HVO, Not Even in Theory

[VJESNIK] Do you think it is true that a certain Islamization of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina can endanger the Croatian constitutionality there, and what is your comment on Mr. Izetbegovic's statement that your opinion—that Croatia has to protect the interests of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina—is "scandalous"?

[Susak] In the late eighties, when we founded the HDZ [the Croatian Democratic Community], our program became the strategic goal of the Croatian state. According to that, we have a right to protect their interests; moreover, that is our duty. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia instructs us to protect every Croatian citizen, and Bosnian Croats are our citizens. I will protect the statute of my party and the Constitution of my country, regardless of what Mr. Izetbegovic thinks about it. We do not intend to interfere with the internal affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but if Croats there are endangered in any way, our state must do everything for them to survive. Croatia entered the Dayton negotiations under those terms. We respect the fact that Bosnia-Herzegovina is a state of three constitutional nations. However, we will not see Croats lose their constitutionality while there is a free and independent Croatian state nearby.

[VJESNIK] Have you not noticed a recent tendency—even an international pressure—to question the future

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existence of the HVO [the Croatian Defense Council], the greatest guarantee of Croatian constitutionality?

[Susak] They cannot do that, not even in theory. Croatia has tried to achieve the joint action of the HVO and the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the level of command, and none of the agreements we signed have mentioned anything else. That is our right and we are going to use it.

[VJESNIK] What do you think about the statements of certain U.S. officers about providing additional weaponry for the Muslim army in order to achieve a balance of forces? It seems the public is a bit uncertain about what the alleged balance means and what it really involves.

[Susak] The United States must balance between Europe and the Muslim states. They have to take care not to offend either side. The Muslim states have been very clear about it, they always talk about arming the Muslim side. The United States want to avoid that, so they talk about balance to avoid irritating the Muslim countries. What does it mean? It is no secret that the HVO is trained and equipped better than the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus, when they talk about balance, they mean the ability of the joint armed forces of the Federation to confront the Serbs.

[VJESNIK] Recently the Serbs have finally admitted that they lost the war, and speculation about the alleged arrangements made at the negotiating table have also ceased!

[Susak] Believe me, it had a tremendous importance for the international community. The world has finally stopped believing in the myth about Serbian heroism. At first, people could not understand how we managed to accomplish so much in such a short period of time, but now they have a deep respect for that.

I Will Be Ready

[VJESNIK] You come from Siroki Brijeg. Will you return there when you decide you have finished your job as minister?

[Susak] I know that cynics will misunderstand me, but I received the roots of my conviction as a Croat in Siroki Brijeg. I think—as I told one fellow who was criticizing Herzegovinians—that such people will never hate Herzegovinians as much as the Herzegovinians love Zagreb. We consider Zagreb the capital for all Croats. It is difficult to perform a minister's duty and say that I do not have political ambitions, but that is true. I had never dreamed I would be a part of a government. I used to feel sick even when I passed a municipality authority building. I could never stand authorities. I would be happiest just living in Siroki Brijeg without a political function, that is true, but I am following the man I made a promise to, and I am not going to let him down.

[VJESNIK] Finally, tell us what you think about the outcome of the problem of the Croatian Danube area—will it soon be integrated in our administrative and political system?

[Susak] By the end of this year we must have enough positive signals to agree to allow the process to be prolonged for several months, until the final solution is reached. Then, if the final solution fails, I will be ready. In order to prevent any misunderstanding of my words, I will stress that we are going to give Mr. Klein and the peaceful solution a chance, cooperate with him and accept his helpful suggestions.

Croatia: Interview With U.S. General on E. Slavonia Discussed

LD2804181396 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A UN radio station has started broadcasting from the occupied territory within the framework of the peaceful reintegration of Croatia's Danubian region. Their program can be heard twice a day in the occupied Danubian region, and today's interview was conducted with U.S. General Jacques-Paul Klein, interim administrator for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srjem.

General Klein stressed on this occasion that the Danubian region is part of the Republic of Croatia. Marija Petrinovic reports:

[Petrinovic] My sapper units are clearing the minefields around the Sid-Vinkovci railway line and we expect two trains to start running immediately after the clearing operations are completed, General Klein said in this morning's talk on the UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia] mission, adding that this is necessary for the economic revival of this region.

Therefore, Interim Administrator General Klein said, the more interstate border crossing points, railways, and roads we open in the UNTAES-administered area, the more people will be getting together.

He again explained to the rebel Serbs in the Danubian region that this region is a part of Croatia.

[Begin recording] [Klein in English, fading into Serbo-Croatian translation] Under international law, as of 15 January, de jure—that is, legally—this is part of Croatia. There is nothing I or anyone else can do about that. That

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is a fact. By definition, people living here are citizens of the Republic of Croatia. [end recording]

[Petrinovic] Speaking about the institutions of civilian authority in the transitional administration period, General Klein said that lawyers will be allowed to work independently. With the consent of the Croatian Government they will be able to receive documents from all parts of Croatia. This applies to work permits, health cards, and citizenship papers.

In order to get a loan you have to prove who you are, General Klein said, and that is why I asked the local authorities last week to secure the necessary premises for such services.

General Klein also said that all those in the Danubian region who became eligible for retirement benefits before the war will now be able to realize this right—teachers and workers, for instance. He added that [UNTAES] civilian affairs head (Gerard Fischer) now has a list of 12,000 people who in addition to their pensions should receive arrears for the past five years.

Croatia: Explosion Kills 3 Soldiers in Vukovar

AU2804182096 Belgrade POLITIKA EKSPRES in Serbo-Croatian 26 Apr 96 p 13

[Report by "J.Ml.": "Tragedy in the Watchtower"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vukovar—Sorrow is reigning in Ostrovo, near Vukovar. The village is clad in black. On 23 April, at about 1630, in house No. 100A in Milos Obilic Street that served as a watchtower for the 5th Infantry Brigade, a terrible blast went off when several antitank mines and most probably some other explosive devices exploded due to improper handling. Three soldiers were killed; four wounded soldiers were taken to St. Sava Health Center in Vukovar. [passage omitted]

Croatia: E. Slavonia Serbs Elect New Regional Executive Council

LD2704174696 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1555 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beli Manastir, 27 Apr (TANJUG)—In Beli Manastir today the assembly of the Serb region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem elected a new Regional Executive Council [government], headed by Vukovar neuropsychiatrist Dr. Vojislav Stanimirovic.

Stanimirovic chose the best team of experts from people working or living in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, and his proposal—which is quite unusual here—was upheld by all 45 deputies present. The regional assembly has 53 seats.

Besides Stanimirovic, the regional "government" is made up of two deputy presidents and 13 regional secretaries. Nine secretaries were appointed today, all of whom have university degrees and most of whom speak several foreign languages.

Milos Vojnovic, the hitherto chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSK [Republic of Serb Krajina], was appointed as internal affairs secretary, while the Justice Secretariat will be headed by former Krajina Minister Vojin Susa.

Economist Bogdan Vojnovic is the new finance secretary; Zdravko Egic, former director of the Borovo company, is in charge of economic affairs; Agronomist Simo Sijan is agriculture secretary, while Radislav Mutavdzic is secretary for information.

Economist Milorad Lemic is trade and tourism secretary; Engineer Slobodan Jovcic is in charge of urbanism; Lawyer Branko Jurisic is the new secretary for human and national minority rights, while Professor Djura Podunavac is education secretary.

The assembly today appointed Milan Knezevic as deputy president of the Regional Executive Council, while the other deputy president and secretaries for transport and communications, health and private enterprise are to be appointed at the next assembly session.

The appointment of Zdravko Egic as economy secretary attracted special attention—he had escaped to Belgrade at the outbreak of the war, but later returned and settled in Borovo at Stanimirovic's request.

Presenting the program of the Regional Executive Council, Stanimirovic said that "Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem is the only remaining multi-ethnic, multireligious, and multicultural area in former Croatia," and that his government will do everything to secure the rights of its population.

He said that he expected the international community "to provide territorial autonomy for the district in line with Lord Carrington's plan for former Yugoslavia."

Stanimirovic said that, together with his aides, he will do everything to carry out the process of demilitarization in line with the Erdut Agreement, adding that he demanded that the international community "provide full guarantees for the security of the people, because some reasons for the Croat-Serb conflict still have to be eliminated."

"That is why we will continue to conduct defense preparations, within the framework of the Erdut Agreement," Stanimirovic said.

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He also announced the economic reconstruction of the region, above all of large companies such as Borovo, Vuteks, Vupik, and the Vukovar port. He added that he will do everything to preserve the existing [Yugoslav] monetary system.

Stanimirovic listed his most important tasks—combating crime, stopping the [Serb] exodus, and providing humanitarian aid for the refugees. As far as the return of Croats is concerned, "I will insist on full reciprocity in the negotiations as this is envisaged in the Erdut Agreement," he said.

Speaking about the struggle against crime that has assumed huge proportions, Stanimirovic announced "urgent reorganization of the police, the finalization of judicial bodies, and the reorganization of customs and inspection services."

Goran Hadzic, the president of the Serb Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, described the setting up of the new Regional Executive Council (the previous one, headed by Borislav Drzajic, was relieved of its duties today) as a very important step toward the introduction of peace in the region and the search for the most favorable solution for the 160,000 Serbs living there.

Croatia: E. Slavonian Serb Leader Views Region's Prospects

AU2604163796 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 21 Apr 96 p 4

[Interview with Goran Hadzic, newly chosen "president" of the "Srijem-Baranja region" of Serb-occupied eastern Slavonia, by Jovanka Simic; place and date not given: "Remaining for the Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago, the Srem [Serb spelling of Srijem]-Baranja region got what it hitherto had not had: its own president. The president is Goran Hadzic, former president of the SAO [Serb Autonomous Region] Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem (as the area was called in 1991), and later, until the 1993 elections, president of the Republic of Serb Krajina.

The former first president of the Republic of Serb Krajina, as of last August the former Republic of Serb Krajina, has also become the first president of its leftover eastern part. A few months ago, this part was named the Srem-Baranja region.

In a two-hour meeting, which was held somewhere in Erdut, the members of the Srem-Baranja region council unanimously decided that the region should have a new president and that it should be Hadzic. The meeting was attended by Milan Milanovic, hitherto head of the negotiating team, Ilija Kojic, the head of the ministry for internal affairs, Miroslav Keravica, the recently elected head of the Vukovar municipal assembly (replacing Slavko Dokmanovic), and the representatives of all five municipalities in the Srem Baranja region (Vukovar, Dalj, Mirkovci, Tenja, and Beli Manastir).

As Goran Hadzic (who was also present at the meeting in Erdut) later explained to reporters, the council of the region automatically ceased to exist with the election of the president. On this occasion, it was decided that the region is to get something that it had lost with the fall of the Knin Krajina: an assembly. It will be constituted on 23 April, when the delegates are to confirm Hadzic's election to the position of president or chose a different one.

A Point Regarding Migration

[Simic] Do you expect the assembly to support your election as president?

[Hadzic] I hope that the assembly makes the best decision for this nation and that it chooses a person prepared to carry and distribute the responsibility at this delicate moment in time, which concerns about 150,000 local inhabitants. Personally, I am preparing to take on this difficult task, but I will respect the delegates' wishes if they choose someone else. Whoever is chosen as president has a major task awaiting him: To stop the migration, which for a long time has been silently taking place during the night over the Danube bridge, as well as to fight crime.

[Simic] Is it at all known how many people have moved away?

[Hadzic] It is good that, for the time being, it is mostly furnishings that are being moved and the people are coming back after leaving it somewhere safe in Serbia. As far as I have found out, about 40 percent of the inhabitants of the region have moved their movable possessions into Serbia. The problem is that there are a number of cases, with certain exceptions, where people have moved things that were not their possessions. How is it otherwise possible for someone to have taken his furniture over the Danube and returned, yet his home is still fully furnished?

[Simic] What is the top priority in your fight against crime?

[Hadzic] It is urgently necessary to put a stop to the uncontrolled cutting down of the forests. This is contrary to the wishes of the local inhabitants who remain in this area. The assembly will be appointing bodies to put a stop to this. This problem was also previously on the agenda of the council of the region. It is said that it is not known who is cutting down the forests. I do not

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know either, but, according to the data received from our people at customs, 800 to 1,000 cubic meters of best quality wood is being taken out in an unknown direction every day and the money thus made is not ending up in the budget of the council of the region. These are appalling figures. In my own time a few years ago as president of the Republic of Serb Krajina, I was criticized over a matter of 2,000 cubic meters, which was used to pay for our police uniforms. I was even nicknamed "Minister Log."

I Believe Klein

[Simic] Let us return to the region's assembly, which is to be constituted next Tuesday. In what way will the delegates be elected?

[Hadzic] First I will remind you that, back in August last year, I emphasized that an assembly was more than needed. However my suggestion did not receive support and so the council of the region was formed. Our parliament will consist of the republic's delegates, elected in the first and only elections in the Republic of Serb Krajina in 1993. However, this only refers to delegates based in the Srem-Baranja region. Moreover, all five municipalities will delegate their own representatives, so the assembly will consist of 53 delegates.

[Simic] What about the party structure of the assembly?

[Hadzic] Representatives of all the parties have recently, without reservation, agreed on a united national program. This in itself is good, since it is, of course, most important for us first to take care of the national question and only then to start with political outplaying [nadigravanje]. That is why I would now not worry about the relations of some parties or how many delegates, for example, the "Radicals" have in the assembly, since it is clear to everyone here that we must first make sure that our people remain here in a dignified manner.

[Simic] In your view, to what extent does the Erdut agreement guarantee that the local people remain and survive in this area?

[Hadzic] Sometimes even the minimum is not so little and the Erdut peace agreement, whose acceptance I also supported, nevertheless does offer some guarantees. It is also important that the administrator, Jacques Klein, does not think that his mission will succeed if the Serbs do not remain living here. He repeated this to me when we recently met at the Easter liturgy in Dalj. I have trust in Mr. Klein.

[Simic] Many comment on your repeated surfaced at the political helm here as a "logical closing of the circle" [zatvaranje kruga].

[Hadzic] I do not know if it is really a circle, but I think that it is logical that the people who started this, I would say, great and difficult task five years ago should also see this task to the end. I am an optimist and I believe that we will realize our goal: having the Serb people remain in the Srem-Baranja region.

Belgrade

[Simic] The question of your relations with Belgrade at this moment is unavoidable.

[Hadzic] Even previously, when I was president of the Republic of Serb Krajina, and after that, and now, too, Belgrade had an extremely correct relations with myself and the people whom I represent. I totally support Belgrade's peace policy, as well as the people that steer it. I believe that with such a policy, even we here will succeed in protecting the interests of our people to the maximum extent.

Croatia: Police Arrest 6th 'International Terrorism' Suspect

AU2604131396 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 26 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Damir Herceg: "A Coastal Connection for Abdic's Assassins"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rijeka, 25 April—After the Croatian police arrested five persons in a Mercedes with Bihac license plates on 4 April this year near Senj, who were suspected of attempt to carry out a terrorist attack on Fikret Abdic, now even a sixth suspect finds himself under arrest in Rijeka prison, namely Jusuf Delic-Ibukic (age 32), a private entrepreneur from Kraljevica.

On Tuesday the police filed criminal charges against suspect Delic-Ibukic and took him to Veljko Miskulin, investigating judge with the County Court in Rijeka, on the basis of the founded suspicion that the suspect took part in criminal activities of international terrorism.

The county state attorney submitted a demand for investigation against Delic-Ibukic, who in a talk with judge Miskulin denied allegations stated in the demand for an investigation, accusing him of international terrorism. Delic-Ibukic made a statement in the presence of his lawyer. The court ordered his imprisonment. [passage omitted]

According to the data processed in the course of the criminal-judicial procedure, the Bihac five have mentioned so far in their statements a certain high official of the state security service of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from Bihac, who reportedly was the main architect of the planned assassination of Fikret Abdic.

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As we have unofficially learned, several years ago the sixth suspect, Delic-Ibikic, bought an old house in Kraljevica, at Palih Boraca Street 5a, quite near the police station. He refurbished that house, and in its basement opened a boutique called Laura, which, according to local citizens, did not do particularly good business, so that its leaseholders frequently changed. After that Delic-Ibukic gave up selling clothes and opened a grocery store there. It seems that Delic-Ibukic was quite business-oriented, because he recently also made some inquires as to the possibility of opening another shop in Kraljevica. His family lives in Bihac, and he reportedly used to travel quite a lot. Whether he was engaged solely in legal trade, or perhaps acted as a coastal connection for the Bihac group, the investigation is supposed to give an answer.

Croatia: Vukovar Serbs Try To Recruit More Policemen

AU2604194196 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 24 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of the law on internal affairs and the act on labor relations in administration bodies, the Vukovar department of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serb Krajina announces job openings for members of the police force and other authorized official persons.

Applicants must meet the general and special conditions for being employed at the Ministry of the Interior.

Other necessary information will be provided at your nearest police station from 2 May onwards.

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FYROM: Assembly Ratifies Agreement With FRY

AU2604174296 Skopje MIC in English 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Agreement for the regulation of the relations between the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and FR Yugoslavia was ratified yesterday by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. After four hours of discussion, 75 MPs voted "in favor," one abstained from voting and 11 MPs from the PDPA [Party for Democratic Prosperity of Albanians] and NDP [People's Democratic Party] were against.

In the final speech in front of the Assembly, Foreign Minister Ljubomir Frckovski emphasized that the Agreement is in accordance with the national interests of the Republic of Macedonia. Namely, the interests for the recognition of the political-legal continuity of the Republic of Macedonia, regulation of the succession in a manner which takes into account the fact that the former federation has been dissolved and there is no sole successor to its continuity, and that it contains the Macedonian constitutional name.

The Agreement is also clear on the question of demarcation of the border line, Frckovski underlined. "There is no dispute over the international border, but it is necessary to take a step towards its precise delineation and demarcation in the maps, which is to be regulated by standard procedure."

As regards the succession, Frckovski explained that it will be settled by agreement. "The multilateral discussion on the question of succession, in which we have been taking part since the very start, is underway, which means that we will continue to resolve that question in the same way as we used to," Frckovski said.

Behind the international support of the Agreement, Frckovski said, is the opinion that it cannot have a negative reflection on some of the neighbors, or the region at large. "It encourages stability and cooperation, and also eliminates illusions that it is possible to change the political borders, the way they are now," Frckovski pointed out.

The MPs from SDSM [Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia] pointed out that the Agreement closes the last big question Macedonia has with one of its neighbors. The Agreement also fulfills the fourth condition for membership in NATO, said Ilinka Mitreva [president of parliament's foreign commission]. Emphasizing that the Agreement is a constituent of the choice of the real-policy in diplomacy, Nano Ruzin noted that it is one of the most important moments in Macedonia's foreign policy.

Stojan Andov from LP [Liberal Party] said that the Agreement is the result of statesmanship, and that it is the last investment in the battle to achieve a free country and a free nation. Elaborating on the historic significance of the Agreement, Andov stood for a limitation of the interpretations which are not in Macedonian interest.

The MPs from PDP [Party for Democratic Prosperity] expressed reservation in regard to the Agreement, in view of the current international position of FRY. "Should we have signed an agreement with those who are responsible for the horrors of the war?" Abdurauf Prusi asked. A number of MPs from this party, as well as the members of PDPA-NDP, expressed concern for the Albanians in Kosovo. Some of the speakers pointed out that the agreements with the neighbors should be supported (Mersel Bilali) and that the recognition of the continuity of Macedonia from ASNOM is an act of historic justice (Sefedin Haruni).

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Poland: Warsaw To Campaign in Brussels for NATO Entry

LD2604184596 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In early May Poland will begin an intensive campaign in Belgium for its admission to NATO. Several events under one slogan of "Poland in NATO" will take place on 3 and 4 May. They will be held in the NATO Brussels headquarters as well as in Mons, where the headquarters of the allied forces in Europe are located.

It is expected that the event will be attended by Polish personalities, among them Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati, as well as by NATO and EU representatives.

Poland: Irish PM Discusses Economic Cooperation, EU Entry

WS2604123196 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 25 Apr 96 p 6

[Interview with Prime Minister John Bruton by Ewa Turska; place and date not given: "You Have Our Support"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Turska] How do you evaluate current Polish-Irish relations?

[Bruton] They are excellent. Ireland opened its embassy in Warsaw in 1990, and Poland opened its embassy in Dublin in 1991. In June 1994, the Irish president paid a visit to Poland at the invitation of [former] President Lech Walesa. I am glad there is such great interest in Irish issues in Poland. Economic contacts are developing very well. Aside from the Russian Federation, Poland is our biggest trading partner in Central and East Europe. Many Irish companies are operating here. In the field of consulting, the Irish are sharing the experiences they acquired when our economy was being reformed—I am thinking particularly of the period that began when our country joined the EU. I hope that as early as this year, when Ireland takes over the chairmanship of the EU, cooperation with Poland will tighten even further.

[Turska] What are you going to discuss in Warsaw?

[Bruton] I will take advantage of these meetings to confirm Ireland's strong support for Poland's integration with the EU. We will also discuss bilateral contacts, as well as the course of the Intergovernmental Conference and preparations for the expansion of the EU—including preparations made in Poland. Moreover, we will address the issue of relations between the EU and Poland, as well as between the EU and Poland's eastern neighbors. We will also touch upon the situation in former Yugoslavia and the peace process in Northern Ireland.

[Turska] Your first visit to Poland is taking place two months before the Republic of Ireland takes over chairmanship of the EU. How do you evaluate our attempts to join this organization?

[Bruton] As the Council of Europe stressed in Madrid, expansion of the EU is both a political necessity and a historic chance for Europe. We are convinced that the admission of new countries is necessary to strengthen peace and stability on the continent. In the case of Poles, a nation that has made a large contribution to European culture, this process means that Europe will retrieve an important part of its cultural heritage. We also believe that, if we assume that the general conditions will be favorable, this may be beneficial to both the present and future member states because new possibilities will open up in the area of trade and investment. The future expansion of the EU will be different from the previous stages in the development of this organization, due to both the nature of the requirements the interested countries must meet and the internal changes that will have to take place in the EU itself. It will also be important that the enlargement of the EU is not detrimental to its interests and efficiency and that it does not unfavorably affect the achievements that have been reached in many areas and that are important to the present members of the EU.

[Turska] How long do you think the negotiations on admission of new member states will take?

[Bruton] This will depend on when the Intergovernmental Conference ends, as well as on the complexity of the problems that arise during the negotiations. At this stage, it is difficult to predict—the negotiations may last until the second half of 1997. It has not been decided yet which countries will take part in the first round of the talks. However, we are convinced that the candidacy of Poland, a country that has made impressive achievements, will be taken into account already in the first stage. Once it takes over the chairmanship of the EU, the Irish Government will hold a dialogue with Poland and other countries associated with the EU. This will be one of our priorities.

[Turska] How do you evaluate the chances to make lasting peace in Northern Ireland? On 30 May, elections will be held to the 110-person forum; from among those people, negotiators will be chosen who will negotiate at the Irish "roundtable." Unless the IRA restores a cease-fire by that time, Sinn Fein will not be able to run in them.

[Bruton] The negotiations that will take place on 10 June with the participation of all of the political parties are an unprecedented chance to reach a historic political agreement and a lasting peace. For the first time, it

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has been possible to prepare a calendar of negotiations that includes not only a specific date, but also very detailed preliminary principles. The Irish Government wants Sinn Fein to play an appropriate role in these talks. However, to make this possible, the IRA must declare a cease-fire. I do hope that it will declare an unequivocal cease-fire, so that all the parties of Northern Ireland will be able to take part in the "roundtable" talks. I am convinced that, if all sides focus on the opportunity offered by these negotiations, the talks will be held in the spirit of compromise, which is indispensable to achieve success.

Poland: Foreign Minister Explains Eastern Policy

WS2904084596 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 24 Apr 96 p 7

["Unauthorized summary" of statement made by Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Dariusz Rosati at a meeting with members of the Poland-East Cooperation Association and the Club for the Polish Raison d'Etat in Warsaw on 18 April, prepared by W.D.: "Minister Dariusz Rosati on Eastern Policy; We Need Determination, Patience, and Means"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reason we use the term "Poland's Eastern policy" is not that we want to say that we have several foreign policies—an Eastern policy, a Western policy, or a Southern policy. We only want to stress that the process of carrying out foreign policy in the East is unique.

However, we have only one foreign policy, and what we are doing in the East is helping Poland achieve its strategic goals.

These goals result from the Polish raison d'etat, which, as I understand it, ought to involve fulfillment of the following three tasks:

1. Guaranteeing the existence of the state, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders—that is, what we understand under the concept of national security.

2. Creating conditions conducive to economic development of the country.

3. Cooperating in the creation of an international environment that would be based on democratic principles and that would eliminate the menace of possible conflicts and dangers.

I believe that the best instrument with which to achieve the first goal is membership in NATO. In the second issue, the best instrument is entry into the EU, an integrating organization with great economic potential. As for accomplishment of the third goal, two factors are the most vital: maintenance of good relations with neighbors and activeness in international organizations—both regional and global.

Thus, when I talk about the Eastern policy, what I have in mind are special relations with the countries that are east of Poland; in dealing with those countries, we should take measures that would enable us to accomplish the aforementioned goals—that is, that would make it easier for us to fulfill our Euro-Atlantic aspirations. The goals and priorities of the Foreign Affairs Ministry [MSZ] are not divided; the Eastern policy is to facilitate accomplishment of the basic goals of the entire Polish foreign policy.

Our relations with the countries of that region are improving. We have signed bilateral treaties on friendship and good-neighborly cooperation. Economic relations are developing, political contacts are becoming increasingly frequent.

Russia

We attach great importance to improvement of relations with this country. After 1990, they were not very good, and, at one point, they were even very limited. We intend to develop political dialogue; we want to implement a strategy we call "increasing the density of bilateral relations." This involves holding meetings and exchanging views at all possible levels, in various occupational and social groups. Thus, we need cooperation among presidents, governments, parliament members, as well as among regional, youth, scientific, business, and other communities. In this way, groups are formed that are interested in maintaining contacts with one another; they develop common interests by creating powerful lobbies in favor of maintaining interstate relations on both sides of the border. We want to set up a special fund that will provide money for meetings of people of politics, the economy, and science. We are hoping to obtain support from West European institutions on this issue.

Polish-Russian relations are burdened with one, yet fundamental, difference of opinion. It concerns our membership in NATO. Until recently we differed so much on issues of European security that all Polish-Russian political relations were extremely complex as a result. Thanks to our efforts as well as to the fact that the Russians have opened up to some extent, for a few months our relations have been different than they were before: we are not changing our stands on security issues, but we are normally developing cooperation in other areas.

The issue that divides us is immensely delicate. We believe that our membership in NATO is exclusively an affair of Poland and NATO member states, and only

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in these groups can it be discussed. However, Russia is our neighbor; it occupies an important place in global politics. For these reasons, we believe that, in order to have good-neighborly relations with Russia, we should talk with this country about our plans regarding national security. The purpose of the talk would not be to obtain Russia's permission. We do not expect such permission, and Russia is not saying that it is willing to give it to us. We are talking with Moscow because we do not want our neighbors to be surprised; we want them to be informed about our intentions.

We also want to explain to our partners that NATO expansion to the east does not pose a threat to Russian interests. The new character of NATO, which was shaped after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, shows that it is not an aggressive institution and that it is not hostile to anyone. On the contrary, it is an institution that groups democratic countries, states that do not constitute a threat to third countries. Poland is a country that attaches great importance to good relations with Russia; as a member of NATO, our country would always act in favor of maintaining cooperation with Russia.

The eastward expansion of NATO would also liquidate the so-called zone of unstable security in Central Europe, which, as history shows, always constitutes an invitation to those who want to vie for influence there. It will be better for European security if such a zone does not exist.

We do not want to claim that the process of NATO expansion ought to go only as far as Poland's eastern borders, thus isolating Russia, in a way. On the contrary, we believe that NATO expansion is only an element of the process of building the European security system. Aside from NATO, we believe that this system should include other central elements as well: the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a strategic agreement between NATO and Russia, and cooperation between the alliance and countries that are not part of it.

In short, this is a certain line of balance that we are presenting to the Russians and other partners in the East.

Ukraine and Belarus

The existence of independent Ukraine and Belarus is a fundamental condition of our security. We will stress this particularly now that we are observing certain tendencies in Russia and in other countries of the region; these tendencies might be called trends toward integration. However, these trends, as presented by some politicians or parties, may be received as an attempt to reconstruct something that would resemble the former Soviet Union. We do not support such trends. However, we have nothing against the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] integrating both economically and politically; we have nothing against an integration process based on democratic principles, on principles that say that a sovereign state can express democratically formulated views and that bigger states must not impose their will on smaller countries.

Thus, although we are vitally interested in having Ukraine and Belarus maintain their independence, we understand trends toward integration, based on the aforementioned principles.

There are two limitations in our relations with Ukraine. We fully support trends toward building a democratic Ukrainian state, and we are looking with great sympathy at the reform efforts President Leonid Kuchma is making. We are supporting them as much as we can. However, we do realize that Ukraine's relations with Russia are complex. Thus, we stress that Poland is not and will not be a party to this dispute and to the frictions and conflicts that arise there from time to time. Our relations with Ukraine must not be developed at the cost of our relations with Russia.

Another limitation results from our West-oriented aspirations and involves other Eastern countries as well. While making attempts to stimulate contacts with that region, we must bear in mind that our fundamental policy is Atlantic-oriented. Thus, we must see to it that our activity in the East does not negatively affect the efforts we are making to integrate with the West.

In this situation, the most appropriate form of relations with Ukraine and Belarus is engagement in the provision of economic assistance as well as supporting democratic and market reforms. We will develop economic cooperation; we will devote more time and attention to sharing our experiences in building a market economy and a democratic system. We are going to take steps to arrange meetings between Polish, Ukrainian, and Belarusian administrative, parliamentary, regional, and other circles. Also, we can play the role of a bridge that would link Ukraine and Belarus to Western economies and institutions.

Baltic States

We have very good relations with the countries of that region. Cooperation with Lithuania has been improving for two years now. There was a time when our relations were very tense; today one can say that, especially now that President Kwasniewski has visited Vilnius, they are excellent. I hope that they will not change after the fall parliamentary elections, even if the configuration of forces on the Lithuanian political scene changes.

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The Remaining CIS States

Our relations with them are not so well developed. This results partially from the fact that we had to focus on selected issues that were the most important to us, and partially from the insufficient financial means and cadres of the Polish MSZ.

We want to strengthen our presence in Trans-Caucasian and Central Asian countries. Our position in those countries used to be quite good in the past, especially as far as economic issues were concerned. This goes primarily for Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. We want to return there. Last year we opened an embassy in Almaty; our representative in Uzbekistan was raised to the rank of an ambassador; finally, we hosted the head of Kyrgyzstan's diplomatic services in Poland.

In this region, we have first of all economic interests. In some of those countries, there are also Polonia communities, whose situation is of interest to us. We do not have any great political interests there.

Favorable Conditions and Threats

We can see both favorable conditions and threats in the implementation of the priorities outlined above. In the former, we should include the fact that Poland's economic position in the post-Soviet areas was fairly strong until recently. We must regain this position within two or three years.

Over the past months, we have been trying to persuade our partners in Russia, Lithuania, and other countries that Poland is not hostile to them. We have been saying that, since over a million CIS citizens stay in Poland every day, this means real integration. This is creation of economic interests, movement of people, and flow of information. This should strengthen positive trends in international relations.

One of the threats we can see is the fact that, in Eastern countries, democratic institutions do not yet occupy a strong position. It is uncertain whether there will be political turmoil in those countries—for example, due to the economic crisis. We may also witness nationalist conflicts. This causes some uncertainty. We must watch carefully the processes going on there in order to be prepared for possible surprises.

However, if we have enough determination, patience, and means, we will accomplish the goals we want to accomplish in our relations with the countries of the Eastern region.

Poland: Goals of Foreign Policy Discussed at Conference

96EP0039A Warsaw WARSAW VOICE in English 3 Mar 96 p 8

[Article by Barbara Pajchert: "A Goal-Less Draw"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Former foreign ministers say Poland's political problems may stymie its moves to join Western institutions.*

The deep political rift in society, instability in post-Soviet Union countries and Russia's policy toward Poland are the greatest hazards to foreign policy, according to Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Dariusz Rosati.

Polish raison d'etat and foreign policy priorities were discussed at a meeting of past and present foreign ministers held in Cracow on February 25. Andrzej Olechowski and Wladyslaw Bartoszewski took part, as did Bronislaw Geremek, head of the Sejm foreign affairs committee. The participants agreed that Poland's main task was to join the European Union and NATO.

Olechowski, who served during Walesa's term of office, expressed the fear that these goals would not be realized because of the country's serious internal crisis, caused by the centralization of power. A speedy reform of the administration is one way out. In Olechowski's opinion, "Public opinion should be separated from politics and reliable people should head them," he said.

Bartoszewski, who left office with Walesa, also considers the situation in Poland as serious and adversely affecting foreign policy.

Referring to the "Oleksy case" Bartoszewski said: "If five people get 25 years (of prison), everything will be okay, but if nothing happens then we can say good-bye to the image of being a civilized country."

	Poles	Russians
	Percent	
Yes	9	18
No	77	1
Hard to say	14	64

Bartoszewski was also not convinced by Rosati's assurances of maintaining the current foreign policy line.

"Rosati will say: We want into NATO. And one of the prime minister's advisers at a reception in Moscow

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will explain that we don't really want into NATO," said Bartoszewski.

Poland: Freedom Union Statement on Outcome of Oleksy Case

WS2604123496 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 26 Apr 96 p 6

["Statement by the Freedom Union on Dropped Proceedings in the Oleksy Case; When Politicians Are Suspect"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the decision made by the Prosecutor's Office on the Jozef Oleksy case, the Freedom Union [UW] upholds its view that the legal responsibility the prosecutor examined must be separated from the responsibility of a politician who had close relations with an officer of a foreign intelligence service that Poland was totally dependent on until recently. The Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] is trying to take advantage of the fact that proceedings were dropped in order to eradicate the affair from the public mind.

The prime minister and the SLD have announced that they will hold responsible the officers of the Office of State Protection [UOP] who performed their duties in connection with the Oleksy case. Persecuting state officers who launch proceedings when politicians are suspected of criminal activity will lead to treating the state as a political instrument, the role of which is limited to an inanimate tool for realizing the interests of the governing party.

The opinion of the special Sejm commission, which concluded that [former Interior] Minister Andrzej Milczanowski and UOP had not violated the law in the course of operations related to the Oleksy case, has been completely ignored. We view announcements of instituting proceedings against [former] Minister Milczanowski as an attempt at political revenge.

Signed on behalf of the UW Presidium by UW Spokesman Andrzej Potocki

Warsaw, 24 April 1996

Poland: Officials Comment on Closing of Oleksy Case

WS2604130196 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 26 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by Andrzej Golec and Jakub Rzekanowski: "Officers Will Be Verified; The UOP in Three Scenes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The officers who supervised the so-called Jozef Oleksy case were subjected to verification proceedings on 25 April. The Office of State Protection [UOP] wants to determine whether they are guilty of "negligence of duties." Colonel Andrzej Kapkowski, acting chief of UOP, has set up a special commission for this purpose.*

The officers who are going through the "verification procedures" have asked for leave until the commission completes its work (which will probably be by 25 May). Their names have not been revealed. Those who have read the statement by the Prosecutor's Office, which presented the prosecutor's reasons for discontinuing the investigation into the Oleksy case, know that the issue had to end this way sooner or later, said Internal Affairs Minister Zbigniew Siemiatkowski.

Deputy Lucyna Pietrzyk (of the Polish Peasant Party—PSL), chairwoman of the Sejm's extraordinary commission, admitted that the verification proceedings instituted against the UOP officers were a consequence of discontinuing the Oleksy case. She ruled out the revenge version. A different opinion was voiced by Deputy Jerzy Ciemniewski (of the Freedom Union—UW), a member of this commission, who fears that this action is "the carrying out of an order from the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] and an attempt to create an atmosphere of intimidation among the UOP cadres."

Colonel Jerzy Nozka, deputy head of UOP, said after a hearing at the Sejm's extraordinary commission examining the legality of the actions taken by UOP that there are no legal grounds to suspend the officers who supervised this case. As it turned out, no one was suspended. Col. Nozka evaded the question of whether the decision to discontinue the investigation meant a failure of his offic

The internal affairs minister said that General Marian Zacharski (who is staying in Switzerland) has not come back to Poland yet, even though he has been summoned to return. "If he does not come, it would mean desertion," said the head of the Internal Affairs Ministry [MSW]. He did not say what actions might be taken against the suspended officers if they are found guilty of negligence of official duties. Asked whether Prosecutor S. Gorzkiewicz had not violated a state secret, Siemiatkowski replied that "the person who had the right to make an independent judgment on this issue was the prosecutor." He added that, if the white paper with materials related with the so-called Oleksy case is published, before that a representative of the MSW should look through these documents to decide which of them require special permission to be declassified.

Deputy Sejm Speaker Marek Borowski (SLD) stated that it is necessary to clarify how UOP prepared its documents. The prosecutor absolutely "disqualified" them, he said. Borowski added that it is quite unusual to

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publicly call a person a spy without having any proof. According to Borowski, the MSW head cannot fold his hands and say: "Well, that is life, boys. You have done a lot of work, but still you have failed..."

UOP was also discussed at the Sejm premises on Thursday [25 April]: The first reading of the government's amendment to its package of draft laws on the reform of the administrative center took place. One of the elements of this amendment is the idea of excluding UOP from the MSW structure and subordinating it directly to the prime minister. While presenting the amendment to deputies, Minister Leszek Miller, head of the Office of the Council of Ministers, expressed the hope that, once the changes are put into effect, the security services will function "without any burdens related to personal interests." "These will be services for the entire nation, not for one minister," he added.

Representatives of deputies' clubs tended to support the idea of changing the position of UOP. SLD deputy Zbigniew Kaniewski mentioned the recent experiences related to the security services and added that this change would raise the rank of UOP. He believes that the change will also help protect the interests of the legal state and strengthen civil liberties. Antoni Tarczynski of the PSL was less optimistic. Jan Maria Rokita of UW believes that exclusion of UOP from the MSW structure is a good solution from the point of view of the political system, but it raises political concerns. "The opposition wants to support this plan. However, it does not want to allow you, Mr. Prime Minister, to settle accounts with UOP," the UW deputy shouted to Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, who was not present in the Sejm.

Poland: Right-Wing Leader on Credibility of Oleksy Prosecutor

LD2604152496 Warsaw Radio Zet Network in Polish 0610 GMT 26 Apr 96

[Studio interview with Romuald Szeremietiew, leader of the Patriotic Camp, by station announcer—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Good morning.

[Szeremietiew] Good morning.

[Announcer] What do you think about the prosecutor's decision on the Jozef Oleksy case?

[Szeremietiew] It was a bad decision, and I regret it because he is a military prosecutor and my close links to the Army are well known. I regret this fact but not because of the decision as such because he is free to make his own decisions. However, after reading the decision, I have come to the conclusion that it is a bad one. I simply regret that there has been such a lack of professionalism and expertise here.

[Announcer] What are the reasons for this lack of professionalism?

[Szeremietiew] I think that, first, you can see the bias in the justification of the decision. Also, one cannot see here what every prosecutor should have done—namely, look at two options: the option for and the option against. If you reject the option against, you should justify how and why the decision was made. Here, unfortunately, it seems that Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz adopted a version that was preconceived at the outset, that Oleksy did not deserve to be put on court trial. He was consistent in this attitude.

To some extent, he also used the newspapers—I mean the way other witnesses were treated, particularly General Zacharski.

There is another doubtful thing here. It transpires from the decision that the prosecutor made various judgments on the issue of guilt. The decision on this issue can only be made by a court. Only a court can decide whether somebody is guilty or innocent. A prosecutor can only decide on one thing: that, on the basis of the evidence that has been collected, he cannot submit the prosecution's case to the court.

[Announcer] Chairman, yesterday you revealed some facts from Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz's past.

[Szeremietiew] Yes, I thought one would not have to return to that. I crossed Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz's path in the past. We were brought together by fate, by the Martial Law fate. I was in the dock accused of attempting to overthrow the regime. Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz then, during the time of martial law, a lieutenant, was one of the coprosecutors, together with Prosecutor [?Gonciarz] in my trial. The prosecutors demanded seven years in prison for me. I got five years and spent some years in jail. Subsequently, when we got our freedom back, the Supreme Court Military Chamber decided that the sentence was wrong and that I did not commit the offense. Consequently, what the TRYBUNA daily wrote—that Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz had been successful in all of his cases—is not true. That case did not end with success.

One question I ask myself, a question that is probably being asked by many people in Poland, is whether a military prosecutor who was prosecuting in the political trials during the martial law period is a credible person to make decisions in a case involving alleged spying by Jozef Oleksy. [passage omitted]

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Poland: Prosecutor To Examine Decision To Drop Oleksy Probe

LD2604141396 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Military Prosecutor's Office will examine the decision by Prosecutor Slawomir Gorzkiewicz to discontinue the investigation into the Jozef Oleksy case. Chief military prosecutor General Ryszard Michalowski made this announcement today while testifying to the Sejm commission investigating the legality of the state bodies in the Oleksy affair.

Michalowski added that Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz's decision could not be annulled, but, until the case becomes subject to the statute of limitations—that is, after 30 years—the investigation could be reopened.

Referring to the fact that Prosecutor Gorzkiewicz was prosecuting in the political trials during the period of martial law, Gen. Michalowski said that he does not think that that fact makes him less credible. The general pointed out that Gorzkiewicz was positively vetted after 1989.

Poland: Zacharski Denies Revenge Provoked Oleksy Investigation

LD2704190996 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] General Marian Zacharski has denied that his investigation into the Jozef Oleksy case was revenge for the refusal to appoint him head of the former prime minister's office. Marian Zacharski returned to Poland today on the instruction of Colonel Andrzej Kapkowski, who is the acting head of the State Protection Office.

Gen. Zacharski questioned the correctness of the translation of the key document in the Jozef Oleksy case. The translation was done by specialists appointed by the Military Prosecutor's Office.

[Begin recording] [Zacharski] The people who translated for the Prosecutor's Office made some errors. I pointed them out to the prosecutor. The issue is a free interpretation by the gentleman who made the announcement. I agree that, from the point of view of his office, he had the right to say that the evidence was insufficient. However, what he said about me is a separate matter. I will return to it. I hope that we will meet with the same group of people that gentleman met [sentence as heard]. I will then explain our side of the matter, in a way.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Oleksy has said that you and Former Interior Minister Milczanowski were trying to obtain the post of head of the prime minister's office.

[Zacharski] This was not the case, and I will return to this as well. And I hope I will have the same opportunity as Mr. Oleksy and the prosecutor to speak in front of a broad spectrum of our nation. [end recording]

[Announcer] Gen. Marian Zacharski is of the opinion that the overwhelming majority of the documents in the Jozef Oleksy case should not be declassified. He added that he was not fearing any sanctions against him.

Poland: Former FM: Oleksy Case Launched on Walesa's Orders

LD2804134696 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1300 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The honorary guest of today's meeting of the Freedom Union [UW] National Council, [former foreign minister] Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, revealed that, in his presence, President Lech Walesa had ordered [former interior minister] Andrzej Milczanowski to submit a motion to the Prosecutor's Office concerning the Jozef Oleksy case, despite the fact that Milczanowski had said that the material was incomplete.

The members of the UW Council are discussing a draft resolution calling on the chief military prosecutor to check, in his capacity as a supervisory official, the prosecutor's decision with regard to the Jozef Oleksy case.

Let me remind you that Chief Military Prosecutor General Ryszard Michalowski said on 26 April that he would investigate whether the decision to drop the investigation into the so-called Jozef Oleksy case was justified.

The draft resolution prepared by UW emphasizes that the dropping of the investigation into the matter by the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office, as well as the justification of that decision, have all of the hallmarks of dishonesty and were made to falsify the truth as a result of political pressure from the Democratic Left Alliance.

Poland: Milczanowski Denies Allegation on Oleksy Case

LD2804165996 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1635 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Szczecin, 28 Apr—Andrzej Milczanowski, former minister of internal affairs, has denied that former president Lech Walesa allegedly ordered him to submit a motion to the prosecutor's office with regard to the Jozef Oleksy case, despite the

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fact that he had thought that the evidence material was incomplete. "The president's position and mine were the same," Milczanowski told a PAP journalist.

"The matter was examined several times and in various configurations. Had it not been for the change of political direction, the work on the case could have continued for several months. As a result of the situation that subsequently arose—I deeply believe it today—and as a result of a change of political direction, with one political camp having a monopoly of power, the matter would not have been revealed. It would have been swept under the proverbial carpet, and we would have been accused of preparing a provocation. The president's views and mine were the same, and they were unequivocal."

Former foreign minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski revealed at a meeting of the Freedom Union National Council on Sunday that President Lech Walesa had ordered Andrzej Milczanowski to submit a motion concerning the Jozef Oleksy case to the prosecutor's office, despite the fact that Milczanowski had said that the material was incomplete.

Poland: Warsaw Considering Buying Used U.S. Aircraft

LD2704211296 Warsaw TVP Television Second Program Network in Polish 1900 GMT 27 Apr 96

[Relayed by TV Polonia Network]

[FBIS Translated Text] A plan has arisen in government circles for the quick substitution of MiG-21 planes, which are being withdrawn from our Air Force, with a few dozen secondhand F-16 fighter planes from the stocks of the U.S. Air Force. In this way, the process of retraining our pilots on Western equipment would begin at U.S. bases in Germany. Only later would the eventual type of basic fighter plane for the Polish Armed Forces of the 21st century be chosen. A number of anonymous sources are suggesting that the Polish MiG-21 planes that are being sent into retirement would be replaced by 40 F-16 planes, in A and B models, which would need to be refitted before being handed over to the Poles. In total, it would be necessary to pay about $1 billion for all of the planes, the training of the pilots, and spare parts and missile armaments. The planes are the property of the U.S. Air Force and not the manufacturer—that is, the Lockheed Martin company. They are on offer from the Government of the United States.

Signals suggesting that Minister Dariusz Rosati spoke in Washington on the subject of the F-16 have caused very much annoyance to Polish aeronautics experts. They feel that it is not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Industry that ought to have the decisive say in the selection of the future fighter plane for our Air Force. In their view, the temporary exploitation of F-16 planes in Poland will make impossible a future, unbiased choice of an eventual multitasking fighter plane for the 21st century.

Meanwhile, most Polish military specialists are in favor of choosing the competitive U.S. Navy FA-18 Hornet fighter plane. They have been confirmed in this view by visits from officers from Switzerland and Finland, countries that have already purchased Hornets.

The rumors about the training of Poles on the F-16 have been strengthened by the presence in Warsaw of General H. Burr Jr., the main deputy to the under secretary of the Air Force of the United States. Andrzej Karkoszka deputy minister of national defense, told us that Burr, who is an F-16 pilot, had brought with him many interesting proposals and that one of these, relating to training, meets the expectations of the Ministry of National Defense 100 percent. Karkoszka clearly stressed that the final choice of the eventual fighter plane for the 21st century will made by us not earlier than a year from now.

Poland: Military Plant Protests MON Bid on MiG-29 Overhauls

WS2604123396 Warsaw SZTANDAR in Polish 25 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Wojciech Luczak: "Military Protest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Solidarity and the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union of Military Employees at the Third Military Aviation Plant No. 3 [WZL-3] in Deblin, the bid held by the Ministry of National Defense [MON] for overhauling 10 MiG-29 planes acquired from the Czech Republic was purely fictitious. The result had been known before the special commission made its decision. The WZL-3 in Deblin is the first military company that protested the MON decision, which gave a contract to another military plant. The contract for rejuvenating the former Czech MiG-29 planes went to the rival WZL-2 plant in Bydgoszcz. The protest is to continue "until all of the circumstances under which MON made its decision are explained."

SZTANDAR learned that it is impossible to complete the overhaul of all 10 planes in Poland and that they will have to be sent to Russia, where electronic elements are to be replaced. We were told off the record that the Bydgoszcz plant is far better prepared to technically handle the modern MiG-29 planes. The WZL-3 in Deblin will sign a contract to carry out 20 percent of the overhauls. Apart from that, it will overhaul all of the Polish Iskra jets.

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Poland: Minister Announces Apr Inflation Rate Tops 20%

LD2904083096 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 0700 GMT 29 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Grzegorz Kolodko, deputy prime minister and finance minister, has admitted that inflation in April exceeded 20 percent. However, he made assurances that the implementation of the budget is proceeding according to law and that inflation at the end of the year will not exceed the planned 17 percent.

After four months, we more or less stick to the inflation rate indicated in the Budget Law, he stressed.

Grzegorz Kolodko, who was a guest of Polish Radio, criticized protectionist activities of the Agriculture Ministry. He stressed that, in the long run, they cause damage to the economy. The deputy prime minister found food price rises especially dangerous. He said that only the price of bananas dropped in April.

Today the situation on the food market will be dealt with by the Council of Ministers Economic Committee. Grzegorz Kolodko said that the ministers will be discussing, among other things, ways to halt food price rises.

Poland: Deputy Prime Minister on Economy, Reforms

WS2604140796 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 19 Apr 96 p 8

[Interview with Miroslaw Pietrewicz, Polish deputy prime minister and head of the Central Planning Office, by Wojciech Romanski; place and date not given: "Slowly and Cautiously"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Romanski] For a long time, Poland was perceived by the West as a leader in the transition process in this part of Europe. You claim that all major changes must be made slowly and cautiously. Yet the delay has caused not only the Czech Republic, but also Hungary to outrace us.

[Pietrewicz] This is not a race. Problems have to be solved methodologically and consistently, with social aspects in mind. Let me use privatization as an example. It is an important element of improving the functioning and effectiveness of our economy. It has to be implemented cautiously, especially because the most difficult sectors now remain to be privatized. Restructuring is also necessary, but, in the course of both processes, we are encountering ever more obstacles, in particular in the form of resistance from the largest state companies. We have to convince people that there is no alternative. And other countries? It is good to have a competitive spirit, to compare your achievements with those of others. It is very motivating. Generally speaking, however, it is better to remain calm and avoid going against the tide. The Czechs and Hungarians have been accepted into the OECD. It is an exclusive club that it would pay to be part of because its members would treat us like one of their own. It might also facilitate our membership in the EU. This does not mean, however, that in order to obtain membership we should accelerate projects that have not been fully completed only to outdistance someone else.

[Romanski] We have been hearing ever since the time of Waldemar Pawlak's government that everything should be done slowly and cautiously.

[Pietrewicz] Yes, because all major social and economic projects should be implemented cautiously. I understand that we sometimes lose patience when something drags on for unknown reasons. The ongoing process of forming the Polish Oil holding company and the restructuring of the petrochemical industry that have just been launched are good examples. Both projects could have been completed earlier. But there is another way to look at it: It is true some projects are delayed, but perhaps their outcome will be better. At least I hope so.

[Romanski] Will the necessity of convincing people that reforms are necessary not delay the privatization process in Poland further?

[Pietrewicz] Considering the results of the enfranchisement referendum, one can hardly claim that the citizens are demanding that privatization be accelerated. They have shown no great enthusiasm. That is why we adopted a rational and pragmatic approach—privatization is a precondition for improving our economy.

[Romanski] Yet a pragmatic approach should consist of an eagerness to accelerate reforms and operations aimed at increasing the rate of economic growth, if only in view of our aspirations to join the EU.

[Pietrewicz] Economic growth should be more dynamic so that we could sooner meet EU requirements. But that is not so simple: Acceleration calls for higher investment over the next few years, which we are incapable of financing from domestic funds. This, in turn, implies the necessity of increasing the share of foreign investment in Poland from over 10 percent to 30 percent, which means that not $2.5 billion but $7 billion would have to flow into Poland annually. This shows that we are not capable of accelerating developments much.

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We should at least keep up the current rate of economic growth to solve other problems—for example, public finances. Using the production reserves of our economy will not suffice. We need, among other things, new technologies. These, in turn, require money.

[Romanski] Not everyone shares those views. Deputies from the Polish Peasant Party recently included a provision to the law on the privatization of state companies, which is currently being prepared, stating that only companies with a majority of Polish capital can take part in privatization projects. That provision still remains only on paper; yet, if it became effective, there would be even less money on the market.

[Pietrewicz] Considering the necessity of dynamic economic growth, anything that impedes it should be rejected. Laws that would discourage foreign investment from Poland should be rejected.

[Romanski] Let us assume that nothing of the sort will happen and that all governmental reform projects are implemented. What will Poland be like in the year 2000?

[Pietrewicz] If no unfavorable changes take place beyond the borders of our country—and I do not mean only West Europe, our largest trading partner, but also our eastern neighbors, whose markets we are targeting—if we develop trade with Southeast Asia, and if the process of modernizing our economy is not halted from within, we stand a chance of retaining a high rate of the GNP and raising the standard of living, a very important issue for our citizens. In other words, if the process of building a market economy runs smoothly and without any revolutionary concepts, we can expect the standard of living to grow and inflation to drop.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the reasons for inflation run much deeper. They lie in the still overly monopolized and inefficient economy and the antiquated structure of the farming sector. That is difficult to change. If we can bring inflation to below 10 percent by the year 2000, we can consider ourselves successful.

Frankly speaking, this is not the most important thing. We should keep proceeding in the right direction, make progress, and take full advantage of the circumstances. Then the majority of Poles will feel an improvement.

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Romania: President Iliescu To Visit FRY 16-18 May

LD2704183696 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1748 GMT 27 Apr 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bucharest, April 27 (TANJUG)—Romanian President Ion Iliescu told Yugoslav journalists in Bucharest that he would visit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on May 16-18.

Iliescu, who was speaking after a meeting late Friday with Yugoslav Premier Radoje Kontic, said that during his visit to Belgrade he would sign the recently initialled inter-state agreement on friendship, goodneighbourliness and cooperation.

Kontic is heading a Yugoslav business delegation at an international Crans Montana Forum and Black Sea countries meeting, devoted to economic reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia.

Iliescu said that his meeting with Kontic focused on the development of bilateral relations after the suspension of the international sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the end of war in the former Yugoslavia, and underscored that the two governments had been active even in that period and thus paved the way for the work of mixed commissions.

We have never had outstanding issues with Yugoslavia and therefore there were no difficulties during negotiations on the text of the agreement, the Romanian president said.

Iliescu said that the participation of F.R. Yugoslavia and other newly-emerged states from the former Yugoslavia in the Bucharest meeting was highly important and stressed that peace was not possible without economic links and cooperation.

Iliescu recalled that the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was among the initiators of Black Sea economic cooperation. However, the conflict which erupted in the former Yugoslavia in 1991 prevented F.R. Yugoslavia and other newly-emerged states from taking part in the founding meeting in Istanbul and the later meeting in Bucharest.

Therefore, this year's participation of these states in the Crans Montana Forum and the conference on Black Sea economic integration is an important step in the [word indistinct] process, Iliescu said.

Kontic said that his talks with the Romanian head of state had been frank, open, friendly and constructive. An important step has been made in the field of regulating Yugoslav-Romanian relations and good results have already been obtained in concrete projects, Kontic added.

Kontic said that a goal set during a visit by Romanian Premier Niolae Vacaroiu to Belgrade in late 1995, that the volume of exchange between the two countries should reach 500 million U.S. dollars, was becoming quite tangible.

Kontic said that he had agreed with the Romanian president that F.R. Yugoslavia should be fully and speedily reintegrated into the international community as a condition for Yugoslavia to remain a factor of peace and stability in the region.

The Yugoslav premier also said that he had agreed with Iliescu that Yugoslavia's place was in the Balkan and Black Sea integration and that it was the path for Yugoslavia and other Balkan states towards Europe, he said.

Kontic said that their meeting also dealt with the reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia and that he believed that Romania should play two roles. Firstly, Romania's economic capacities and experience can help revitalize the economy and secondly Romania can actively work in international forums on the elimination of a discriminatory stand against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republika Srpska [Serb republic] in economic rebuilding, Kontic said.

Romania: Iliescu Receives FRY Prime Minister Kontic

LD2604214796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1902 GMT 26 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bucharest, 26 Apr (TANJUG)—Romanian President Ion Iliescu received Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic this evening.

In the cordial talks President Iliescu underlined the importance of Yugoslavia's participation in the businessmen's meeting in Bucharest.

The federal prime minister is heading a Yugoslav business delegation to the international conference of the Crans Montana Forum and to the conference of countries of the Black Sea region.

The main subject of the forum—attended by representatives of some 30 countries from Europe and the world—is economic cooperation as an important factor to strengthen peace and security in the region between the Black Sea and the Adriatic.

The Romanian president and the Yugoslav prime minister pointed to the importance of the participation of other states from the territory of the former Yugoslavia

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in the process of integration of the Black Sea region states. This, it was said, increases the chances for the strengthening of stability and cooperation in our region and opens up different prospects for the development of the entire region.

This evening's talks between the Romanian president and Prime Minister Kontic also stressed the significance of the recently initialled interstate agreement between Yugoslavia and Romania, which is to be signed during the Romanian president's planned visit to Belgrade.

The new interstate agreement on friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation ensures that the traditionally good relations between the two neighbors are based on modern international principles, President Iliescu and Prime Minister Kontic said.

Romania: Article Criticizes Moldovan Prime Minister

AU2604170796 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 23 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Mihai Vicol: "The Amnesia of Bucharest Leaders Will Drag Bessarabia Again Into Slav Slavery; Andrei Sangheli: I Am Not Signing Anything With the Romanians!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This time, Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has ostensibly refused Bucharest's extended brotherly hand with regard to electric power.

Here is the reaction of the Chisinau premier: "What kind of Romanian power?!! No, we do not need it; those people with their fascist methods want to occupy us, we have our own. If Snegur needs it, he can take it. I AM NOT SIGNING ANYTHING WITH THE ROMANIANS." The eyewitness to this nervous outburst told us that his voice was so raised that suddenly the door to the office was opened by his secretary, and she was looking with astonishment at those present. The reaction of the premier must not surprise anybody, because his anti-Romanian attitude is well known. Can we really forget that he is the one who spoke out publicly, in a television program, against the Romanian state? He then said: "The Romanian state has not given us even the tip of a pencil." We were told by some of his former fellow villagers about his more than modest origins, his grandfather being the herdsman of the village, so his attitude should not surprise us, and we should treat him like the person in the well-known saying who "quarreled with his bread and butter."

Sangheli "pushed" Chisinau toward Tiraspol. It is no longer a secret that the policy promoted by Chisinau is dictated by Tiraspol. Dniester has "reoccupied" Bessarabia. The two "big Slavs," that is, Yeltsin and Kuchma, will attend in Moscow in May the initialing of a new sale of Bessarabian Romanians to the Russians in Dniester and to Russian sympathizers in the Republic of Moldova.

Regardless of the results of the forthcoming discussions, Chisinau officials will drink a new glass of champagne with Igor Smirnov [Dniester leader] and will shake hands, sealing in this way the sale of the hopes and ideals of reunification of those Romanians who are bleeding away in the Russian prisons of Hlinoaia and Tiraspol. We are thinking here of Ilie Ilascu and his comrades in ideas.

Romania's absence from this dialogue is revealing. It is well known that the Romanian state has not been allowed to mediate between Dniester and Bessarabia since the armed conflict of 1992 on the banks of the Dniester River. Then, Mr. Adrian Nastase [speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament] made a monumental gaffe, saying during a news conference that Grigore Maracuta [Dniester Supreme Soviet leader] had not told him anything about the fact that Romania will not be admitted to the dialogue between the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Dniester regarding the conditions for the cease-fire. At that time, Nastase was Romania's foreign minister. I came from Tiraspol then and told Mr. Nastase that the Romanians would not be accepted into the dialogue. The attitude of President Iliescu, of the government, and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considered "indolence" and is a "criminal" lack of responsibility toward the history of Romania and Romanian historical truth.

The amnesia of the Romanian leaders will again drag the Bessarabian Romanians into Slav slavery. The Ribbentrop-Molotov treaty has remained valid and is taken seriously by the current political leaders in Kiev, Moscow, Bucharest, Chisinau, and Tiraspol. We are being warned by the opposition in Bessarabia that Bucharest must intervene by 24 May, the day of the Moscow dialogue, and appeal to international fora to mediate in the Moldo-Dniester crisis.

President Snegur's attitude toward the current situation in Bessarabia looks bizarre to us. The dialogue with Smirnov in Moscow, under the mediation of Yeltsin and Kuchma, should not have been accepted without the participation of international fora. If the result is going to be in Smirnov's favor, then Bessarabia will be definitively "forgotten" by those who left it as prey to the Slavs.

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Romania: PNTCD Figure Calls Party 'Major Force' of Opposition

AU2604205196 Bucharest JURNALUL NATIONAL in Romanian 20 Apr 96 p 6

[Interview with Radu Vasile, vice president of the National Peasant Christian-Democratic Party, by Gena Saru; place and date not given: "Between the PNTCD and the PNL-CD There Are Some More Serious Differences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saru] The electoral campaign for local elections has official started. Resorting to a well-known question, could you tell us whether you are prepared?

[Vasile] As everyone can see, many parties began the campaign much earlier than its official start, especially through trips their officials took to the provinces, certainly starting with the ruling party [PDSR], which went on visits with an impressive delegation, including ministers....

We believe that the start of the campaign does not find us unprepared, we have mayors in most of localities, we still have to finalize the lists of counselors, and we have established a program of trips at the level of party leadership, which will include not only towns but rural areas as well.

[Saru] There is no doubt that the PNTCD [National Peasant Christian-Democratic Party] is the largest and most important party in the Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR]. In this context, what is the proportion of candidates for mayor's offices compared to the other parties in the CDR?

[Vasile] We do not yet have a definitive situation; however, at the moment the CDR candidates in the major towns are PNTCD members. Certainly there were negotiations with the other partners in the convention, first of all with the PNL [National Liberal Party], and they have also received a number of posts, both in councils as well as mayors' offices, that amounts to about 30 percent of the total number.

[Saru] Is it true that there are attempts to turn the convention into a peasant-liberal axis?

[Vasile] It is strange that the remark comes from some representatives of the liberals, that is, PNL-CD [National Liberal Party-Democratic Convention]. In this case, I do not see what the reason is for the incrimination. The problem is that between the two liberal formations in the CDR there are some more serious differences, and the statement made by Mr. Cerveni [PNL-CD leader] should be also regarded in this light. For the time being, the CDR includes several parties that officially recognize that the PNTCD is the major force of the opposition and of the convention, and therefore on the respective lists it should also be granted a privileged position.

Romania: Black Sea Ministers Discuss Admittance of New Members

AU2704150796 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the ministerial meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] resumed at the Bucharest Parliament Palace this afternoon. A final report is expected to be adopted at the end of the meeting. According to our correspondents Sorina Man and Doina Saiciuc, one of the subjects of the meeting referred to the admittance of new members to this regional structure. We recall that the FRY and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are among the countries that expressed the desire to join BSEC, while Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina asked for an observer status.

The majority of delegates spoke out in favor of expanding BSEC. However, the Albanian foreign minister raised objections to the FRY's admittance, which he considered as premature and unacceptable for the time being, saying, among other things, that Kosovo represents a serious threat to peace and stability in the region.

Objections to Yugoslavia's admittance were also raised by the Turkish delegation. Greece objected to Macedonia's acceptance into the BSEC.

Our correspondents report that the participants suggested that this cooperation structure should be institutionalized in a regional organization and that one should proceed to a new stage, whereby concrete projects for Black Sea economic cooperation are identified.

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Federal

FRY: Kontic on Relations With Neighboring Countries

AU2804195496 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 96

[Tatjana Lenard video report—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lenard] We had very open and constructive talks at the highest level with our friendly host, Romania, with which bilateral cooperation has been intensified after the sanctions and the continuity of political dialogue ensured, Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic said at news conference at Belgrade airport upon arrival from the Crans Montana Economic Forum today. Kontic also announced new projects in cooperation with Romania, as well as a visit Romanian President Ion Iliescu will pay to Yugoslavia soon. The Romanian side expressed readiness to support Yugoslavia's speedier and more efficient return to the international community.

Kontic positively assessed Yugoslavia's participation at the Conference on Black Sea Regional Cooperation, as well as on economic renewal of former Yugoslav regions:

[Kontic] We had an opportunity to present our view of that cooperation and the renewal of these regions' economies. We pointed out in particular that it is most important at the moment to ensure peace and stability and that this is possible through a consistent realization of the Dayton accord. It is in this context that we perceived renewal of the regional economy, because, without a swift economic revitalization and dynamic development of the region, lasting peace and stability in the region most certainly cannot be ensured.

We also emphasized that in reconstructing the region, it is necessary to avoid any attempt at discrimination, which already was the case in the previous period. Here I mean that we insist that the reconstruction should apply not only to war-stricken regions, but to the entire region affected by and suffering the consequences of the sanctions imposed by the international community.

[Lenard] The prime minister also considered the need to invest in the FRY, which has suffered great damage from sanctions and also has humanitarian problems due to the problem of refugees.

Yugoslavia is also interested in cooperation with countries of the Black Sea region, albeit this still has to be put into an institutional framework, Kontic said.

Among significant contacts that the Yugoslav delegation had, the federal prime minister particularly stressed talks with Macedonian [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] President Kiro Gligorov. Together we comprehended the great significance the agreement on regulating cooperation has not only for relations between the two countries, but also for the stability in the region, Kontic said. It was agreed to sign as soon as possible agreements on trade, on double taxation, and on abolishing visas, as well as to appoint ambassadors in Belgrade and Skopje.

Speaking about the meeting with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, Kontic stressed the need for furthering economic cooperation with that country.

According to the prime minister, Yugoslavia was in fact offered in Bucharest to host one of the next meetings of the Crans Montana Economic Forum.

The federal prime minister concluded his news conference with the following:

[Kontic] I would say that in all these talks, we were really accepted with great respect, that in all contacts, the Yugoslav delegation had a fully equal standing, and I may certainly conclude that Yugoslavia is already being treated as a factor of peace and stability in the Balkans, as well as a factor of extreme significance for international relations as well.

FRY: Avramovic To Demand Removal of Council Members

AU2904142596 Bad Vilbel VESTI in Serbo-Croatian 28 Apr 96 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Governor Demands Removal of Councilors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dragoslav Avramovic, governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia [NBJ], said on 26 April that his proposal regarding the expansion of the Council of Governors of the NBJ from six members to 10 had been rejected.

In a conversation with journalists accredited to the NBJ, Avramovic read the letter sent to him following his proposal by the members of the Council, namely Governors Dusan Vlatkovic, Zlatan Perucic, Krunislav Vukcevic, and Dragan Tomic [minister-coordinator in the Serbian Government], in which they reject his initiative as "unlawful."

The governor said that, thus, he had reached an "absurd situation," in which the Council, whose members had been designated at the time of his predecessor, determined what was lawful and what was not because the signatories of the letter drew upon the legal provision that "only the Federal Government or the Council of Governors may in that sense propose certain changes to the law on the NBJ to the Federal Assembly."

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"They are challenging me to use a knife and remove all of them from the Council, and, therefore, I shall officially demand that the Federal Assembly removes all the six current members of the Council of Governors of the NBJ," Avramovic emphasized.

He also said that he had had the best intentions when concretely proposing four new members of the Council, which would have helped the democratization of the work of the Council of Governors and the entire NBJ.

Avramovic also said that he had been encouraged by some statements by Montenegrin officials, and particularly that by Kovac [not further specified], implying a "softening, and even a compiete change, of the FRY's attitude in negotiations with international financial institutions."

[Box, p 8]

Governor Avramovic says that the only encouraging thing in the current economic courses is a new, gradual increase in the hard currency reserves, which amounted to $312.6 million on 26 April.

Three weeks ago, the hard currency reserves dropped to a dramatic $298 million. However, "there is no reason now for excessive self-satisfaction, because the time bomb of inflation is still hanging above our heads," Avramovic said.

Serbia

Serbia: SPO Condemns Attack on Bank Governor

LD2704170796 Belgrade FONET in Serbo-Croatian 1532 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 27 Apr (FONET)—The leadership of the Serbian Renewal Movement [SPO] and chairmen of regional committees of this party condemned attacks on Dragoslav Avramovic, governor of the People's Bank of Yugoslavia, at a joint session today.

The statement by the SPO says that those behind the attacks on Avramovic and "attempts to destroy the monetary system" are Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, the Yugoslav Left, the Serbian Radical Party, the Socialist Party of Serbia, and "economic monopolists whose only interest is the acquisition of personal wealth even at the cost of a new hyperinflation and total chaos in the country."

There was "a strong condemnation of the incomprehensibly arrogant and shameful behavior of the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington during the visit to the United States by the Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic who was treated as if he were 'a national enemy.'" the statement says.

With regards to the events in Kosovo, "whose direct but also indirect victims are both the Serbs and the Albanians, the Presidency of the SPO and chairmen of regional committees insist that the authorities in Belgrade should immediately begin talks with Albanian representatives in line with international norms and standards."

"The platform for the talks has to be an expression of political, economic, national, and cultural interests of all citizens of Serbia and all political players, not of the ruling party and its Left and Right allies only," the SPO says.

Kosovo

Kosovo: District Official Advocates Dialogue

LD2804161396 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1451 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kragujevac, 28 Apr (TANJUG)—The political and security situation in Kosmet remains stable, although the latest terrorist attacks against civilians and public security bodies have aroused justified resentment and spread anxiety among all citizens, Milan Nesovic, deputy head of Kosovo district, told Radio Kragujevac today.

He said that the timely arrest of the perpetrators of these terrorist acts and their punishment in accordance with existing laws will certainly contribute to the return of trust and peace to the region.

Nesovic said that the terrorist attacks against civilian targets are desperate attempts by extreme elements to ruin the increasingly favorable climate for starting talks on resolving the Kosmet issue.

"The recent unfortunate events should serve as a serious warning to all extremists that it is high time for them to turn to dialogue in order to find a modus vivendi," Nesovic said.

"Dialogue is the only correct way because there is no alternative. This is corroborated by an increasing number of statements by Yugoslav and foreign officials," Nesovic said.

The position of the international community—that the Kosmet issue is an internal problem of Serbia and Yugoslavia and that there can be no border alterations—does not suit the secessionists, so they probably want to foment unrest in these parts, but the law-governed state will use all the constitutional and legal means at its disposal to counter such threats, Nesovic said.

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Kosovo: Child Allegedly Killed by Bomb Thrown From Car

AU2804161096 Tirana GAZETA SHQIPTARE in Albanian 28 Apr 96 p 2

[Article by Ali Ukaj: "Throws Bomb in Passing—One Child Killed, Three Others Injured"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tirana—One child has been killed and three injured in a new incident in Kosovo. The innocent victims were three little Albanian boys aged between nine and 12. At about 1730 [1530 GMT] yesterday evening in the vicinity of the village of Lumi i Madh [Velika Reka] near Vushtrri [Vucitrn], as the children were playing beside the Prishtina-Mitrovice highway, an unknown person threw a bomb among them from a still unidentified car. Some travellers took up the children, but on the way to the hospital Nexhat Rifat Hetemi died of his injuries, and three other children, Fatmir and Arsim Hetemi and the son of Ahmet Hetemi arrived in a serious condition. Arsim's life is reported not to be in danger. The injured children were taken to the Prishtina hospital, the Kosovo Information Center reports. At a time when peace agreements and ceasefires are being signed in diplomatic salons, and representatives of assorted countries are being invited for talks, it has become clear that someone is interested in a new battlefront. Now one child has been killed and three injured in Kosovo, even before the mourning rites were finished for the 20-year-old Armend Daci, murdered by a Serb a mere seven days ago.

Many resolutions on Kosovo have been approved by the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], the United Nations, the U.S. Senate, and the parliaments of different countries of the world, but unfortunately without any result. A large number of Albanians gathered yesterday evening in front of the Council of Europe, demanding the recognition of a neutral and independent Kosovo. Only one thing is clear: that the hand that threw the bomb at the children is the same that threw the poison at 4,000 Albanian pupils of primary and secondary schools in Kosovo.

Kosovo: Blast Damages Serbian Police Commander's Home

LD2804152796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1445 GMT 28 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prizren, 28 Apr (TANJUG)—An investigation is under way into the terrorist attack in Dusanovo in which the family home of Prizren police station commander Milos Scekic was bombed, it has been learned from Prizren police.

According to an informed source, terrorists yesterday placed a large quantity of pressed trotyl [TNT] next to Scekic's house; the powerful blast destroyed part of the outer wall, smashed all the windows and cracked the ceilings. Nobody was hurt.

Dusanovo—once exclusively Serb—is now home to Albanians from different parts of Kosmet, most of whom have sought refuge there from blood feuds.

Kosovo: Serb, Montenegrin Opposition Leaders View Situation

AU2704210396 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 27 Apr 96

[Telephone report by Leke Musolli from Pristina]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Meanwhile, reactions by Serbian opposition parties to the latest events in Kosovo continue, with the dilemma of who is behind them and for what aims they try to profit from these events, which the Albanian side first considered to be tragic and with great dangers for the escalation of the situation in Kosovo.

Serbian Radical Party Deputy Chairman Nikolic said that, in case of an insurrection of Albanians, we should invite citizens to come to the defense of Kosovo. Nikolic stated that every concession to the Belgrade power means that citizens in Serbia could enter into a war.

Serbian Democratic Party Deputy Chairman Zivkovic said that no terrorist act has been clarified in Kosovo and accuses the Serbian regime of not calming the situation. With its acts, Serbia is igniting a fire there, he said.

After finding out that a lot of time has been lost in resuming a dialogue with the representatives of Albanians, Serbian Democratic Party spokesman Vuksanovic says that it is better for this to be done today; on the contrary, it will be too late tomorrow.

Even in Montenegro, there are assessments that the tragic incidents in Kosovo may threaten a dangerous escalation of the situation. Thus, the parliamentary opposition parties in this republic are unique and demand that a dialogue be urgently initiated with the representatives of the Albanians of Kosovo in order to resolve the issue.

People's Party leader Kilibarda said that the aggravation of the situation in Kosovo started since Belgrade's myopic policy destroyed the autonomy of Kosovo and that of Vojvodina.

The chief of the Liberals Perovic stated that the killings in Kosovo are a consequence of the activity of some extremist groups who want the tragic scenario of the

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war in the former Yugoslav territory to be repeated in Kosovo as well. That is why he commits himself to exert pressure on Milosevic's power and urges that a dialogue be expeditiously initiated, as the sole way to start resolving the Kosovo issue.

The crisis in Kosovo cannot be resolved with threats, the chairman of Social Democrats Rakicevic states, insisting that Belgrade should hold a dialogue with the legitimate representatives of Kosovo and not with the so-called honest Albanians.

Kosovo: PPK Calls For 'Peaceful Resistance'

AU2704201996 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 27 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency of the Parliamentary Party of Kosova [PPK] discussed the political situation in Kosova and the prospects for resolving the Albanian issue in the former Yugoslavia after some European countries normalized relations with Belgrade. Here is a telephone report by Sherif Konjufca from Prishtina:

[Konjufca] The marginal stance of the Dayton accord regarding a solution to the problem of the Albanians carries the danger that Kosova and other Albanian areas in the former Yugoslavia remain an unquenched source of conflict in this area, a public statement issued by the PPK points out.

Elaborating on the consequences of the recognition of the Federal Yugoslav Republic by the European Union and the abolition of the so-called exterior wall of sanctions, the PPK thinks that a new political ratio is being created, which imposes a lame solution to the problem of Kosova within the Yugoslav Federation's borders.

The party points out that such an imposition carries the potential danger of politically destabilizing the Balkans and the conflicts that lead to war, a logic that the PPK will not accept.

Illustrating the steps that should be taken to ensure a just solution to the Kosova problem, on the basis of the political will of the Albanians as expressed in a referendum, the PPK leadership expresses itself in favor of activating all forms of peaceful resistance, a testimony to the determination of the Albanians to win freedom. In this way, it will become clear to Serbia and the international community that without a solution to the Albanian question there can be no peace in the Balkans. On the contrary, the PPK warns, there may follow the danger of Albanian political subjects being split up.

The PPK calls for an immediate mobilization by the state and political structures of Kosova to examine the political situation and the unfavorable position of Kosova, in order to act swiftly and in conformity with national interest.

Kosovo: Albanian Daily Blames Serbs for 'Terrorist' Acts

AU2704172396 Zurich BOTA SOT in Albanian 27 Apr 96 p 2

[Commentary by Enver Maloku: "Terrorism Is Condemned All Over the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [21 April] morning, a Serbian civilian shot dead the bright Albanian student Armend Daci in Prishtina [Pristina], thus starting a new cycle of violence and tense situation in Kosovo. The Albanian student was shot right through the heart while he was going back home in the Breg i Diellit quarter.

The behavior of the Serbian regime, the way the case was treated by the Serbian police, and the media stance toward the terrorist act in general and the terrorist himself was provocative. The crime gave rise to a great concern and revolt among the Albanian world that has recently experienced constant killings, tortures, and murders through tortures.

As in other cases when Albanians were killed, this time as well the Serbian circles were ready to ignore the Albanian pain and revolt. The first news of the killing and the arrest of the criminal were reported only after the crime and the fact that it was ignored by the regime had had their effect on the Albanian public. It is interesting to note the fact that the news of the killing of the student and the arrest of the killer under the definition that it was a question of "premeditated killing" were reported on the evening of 22 April, while in Decan [Decani], Peje [Pec], Shtimje [Stimlje], and Mitrovice [Mitrovica] some unidentified persons killed five Serbs (four civilians and one policeman) and another four were wounded: three policemen and one civilian. The attacks occurred between 2000 and 2200. The cause of the attacks were quarrels between the Serbian refugees and workers sent from Serbia to Decan and the policemen.

Regarding the "bloody night," as many Serbian newspapers defined the evening of 22 April, the Serbian regime and media have started a propaganda fight that does not aim at halting the violence and decreasing tension, but seeks to aggravate the situation further and blame the Albanian policy for it.

In their assessment on 23 April, the Socialist Party of Serbia branches in Kosovo and its communes threw

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the responsibility for these terrorist attacks and acts onto the Albanian political parties. According to them, the terrorist acts were premeditated and had political goals. They are a result of the alleged failure of the Albanian leadership in its campaign for Kosovo independence. According to the Serbian socialists in power, the failure is readily apparent to the Albanian public after the international recognition of the self-proclaimed Yugoslavia. This fact has discouraged the Albanian extremists, they say. That is the reason, according to them, that facing a no-way-out situation, the leadership of Kosovo has returned to terrorism as a means for accomplishing its aims.

A Serbian paper reflecting the Serbian regime viewpoints assessed on 24 April in a long report that the terrorist acts were practically forewarned in a letter that several Albanian political parties sent last week to Mrs. Susanna Agnelli, who is presiding over the European Union Council of Ministers.

Political Goals Cannot Be Reached Through Terrorism

The Serbian paper's report reveals the Serbian regime's aim of compromising the democratic political movement of Kosovo in the international scene. The report rightly states that no one in the world supports terrorism and no political goals can ever be accomplished through it. However, the Serbian newspaper and regime would like to forget who is in fact a "terrorist," the nonviolent political movement in Kosovo or the regime led by the "Balkan butcher." In an effort to forget the situation in Kosovo and the responsibility for it, the Serbian mass media over the past weeks have broadcast many statements by Serbian officials, mainly members of the communist and socialist parties, on the alleged usefulness of talks between the "Serbian power and representatives of Albanians" in order to resolve problems in Kosovo. Through many programs and after a long time, a gathering of Albanian collaborationists was organized, but all of them taken together are not more than the fingers of one hand.

There existed a certain will to interpret this propaganda campaign ordered from the "highest place" as a Belgrade attempt to "melt the ice" in the Serbian and Albanian public. The events that occurred in the past days may be interpreted within this context.

It is possible that these acts may be a consequence of the Serbian extremists' discontent with the development of events in Kosovo and with the approaching of the day when talks on the peaceful solution to the Kosovo issue will resume. It is known that none of the options for a peaceful solution to the Kosovo issue through international mediation suits the Serbian extremists and the Belgrade regime itself. That it why we cannot exclude the possibility that the terrorist acts may have been committed by someone with the aim of depriving the Albanian nonviolent movement in Kosovo of the international support it enjoys, at a time when this support can play a decisive role both in accelerating the beginning of this solution or in imposing a solution. Within this framework, a Serbian paper ascertained that the policeman in Shtimje was shot with a weapon of "NATO," while another one assessed that the terrorist acts "are coming from Albania."

To tell the truth, the recent developments in Kosovo have had a great echo in the international circles and in the United States. Comments reveal the fear over the direction the development of the latest events may take.

Alongside efforts to demonize [demonizimit] the Albanian movement in the international scene, the Serbian extreme parties, such as the party of criminal Arkan, have expressed the desire to settle accounts at an "internal" level by proposing the establishment of a "special regime" in Kosovo.

A Clear Declaration of the Albanian Side Against Violence

The Albanian policy in Kosovo, as a serious policy, aware of the possible consequences of the developments that started over last weekend, has declared itself to be against the use of violence.

A statement by the Democratic League of Kosovo [LDK] issued on 23 April on the situation in Kosovo blames the Serbian regime for creating a tense situation, that is, a situation in which acts of terror and violence cannot be excluded. On the other hand, the Serbian regime itself is a terrorist regime. The LDK clearly declared itself against violence, regardless of who utilizes it, and called on its members and sympathizers for self-restraint.

Chairman of the Republic of Kosovo Dr. Ibrahim Rugova in Brussels, Kosovo Prime Minister Bujar Bukoshi in a BBC broadcast, and President of Albania Sali Berisha in Tirana condemned the acts of violence in Kosovo and clearly pronounced themselves against its use. Regarding the acts of violence in Kosovo, these statements blamed the Serbian regime and the Serbian extremist circles, who aim at making the situation in Kosovo tense and compromising Kosovo's policy in the international scene as well as the role of the Albanian policy in general in the Balkans.

The international community has, however, identified the problems in Kosovo, the perpetrators, and to some extent the way to resolve them. On the other hand, the

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latest events sent a serious message to the international community that an urgent and serious commitment on its part is necessary to start the process of resolving the Kosovo issue.

It is known that one of the major goals of the Albanian policy was to internationalize the Kosovo issue, while the Serbian policy since the time of the former Yugoslavia aimed at marginalizing Kosovo, even in the former federation. Within this context, Belgrade violently deprived Kosovo of its status as a federal unit.

Since the process of the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia started and up to now, the Serbian regime has tried to keep the Kosovo issue as "an internal affair of Serbia," counting on the fact that, through its military force, it would be able to keep Kosovo under occupation for an even longer time. It would be better for those who are so often summoned in the alleged internal organization of the Albanian factor to recall more often the proportions of force. Let it be repeated what is known: in case Serbia succeeds in convincing or cheating a part of the international community (a part of it is willing to be self-cheated) on the alleged existence of the Albanian terrorism, then the world will not only fail to prevent or hamper Serbia in using violence against Albanians, but will rather help it in allegedly pursuing the terrorists. Terrorists are pursued everywhere in the world.

Kosovo: Tension Said Escalating to 'Boiling Point'

AU2604202896 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by Z. Milosavljevic: "A Single Spark Is Enough"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kosovska Mitrovica—Kosmet is in a semistate of war following the series of attacks on the police and citizens throughout the province. A single spark would be enough to bring the already inflammable situation to boiling point.

It all began with the killing of 20-year-old Albanian student Armen Daci by Zlatko Jovanovic, who shot him from the terrace of his apartment in the Pristina suburb of Suncani Brijeg. The incident, which would most certainly have had different connotations had it happened in some other Serbian city than Pristina, was immediately followed by attacks on police officers and citizens throughout the southern province.

As many as four attacks happened within a single hour. First, masked attackers stormed the Cakor cafe (the only Serbian cafe) and fired several barrages at the guests, and then threw a hand grenade. The balance of the attack was three dead (Djordje Dragic, Blagoje Okulic, and Stana Radusinovic) and one seriously wounded individual. Following this attack, another happened in Pec, near the railroad station; a police patrol was attacked, injuring officers Zoran Basic and Safet Kocan. Some time after 2100 in Stimlje, in the vicinity of Pristina, officer Milenko Bucic (24) from Brus was shot dead from an automatic rifle. Finally, the last attack occurred at around 2200 in the Kosovska Mitrovica district of Tamnik, on the Rozaje-Pristina route near the overpass, when a vehicle of the Suva Reka Municipal Police Station was attacked. Dragana Nesic (19) from Pristina was killed. Nesic had been serving a sentence in the county jail in Kosovska Mitrovica. The attacks leave five dead, and five injured police officers and Kosmet citizens.

After all this, the situation in Kosmet is nearing the boiling point. The police has exchanged their new uniforms for special intervention outfits, and are equipped with rifles and flak jackets. Two nights ago, at around 2100, there was not the usual crowd in the streets of Kosovska Mitrovica. Albanian cafes, which are usually packed late into the night, were empty at twilight. The Albanian youth told us that they were afraid of Serbian revenge, as the Serbs are armed to the teeth and should not be provoked. As usual, the political parties in Kosmet are divided over the attacks.

Whether the situation will normalize depends primarily on the political factors in Kosmet's daily life. If the parties fail to agree and continue to accuse the other side for the attacks, the situation could escalate into an interethnic conflict, which the Yugoslav public has already had the chance to see in Bosnia. If, however, reason prevails, the situation will calm down and the children in Decani will go back to school, as classes were suspended following the incidents.

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